THE STORY OF THE LILAC HILL FESTIVAL

CRICKET MATCHES

1990 - 2008



WRITTEN BY

R.L. (RON) CAREY APM
INAUGURAL GROUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
LIFE MEMBER
MIDLAND GUILDFORD CRICKET CLUB

Photograph depicts the setting for the inaugural match held on Thursday 25 October 1990

THE HISTORY

LILAC HILL FESTIVAL CRICKET MATCHES

In early 1990, and knowing that the England Test Team would be playing their opening tour match in Perth in October that year, former Test Player, and then Member of the Australian Cricket Board, Mr Barry Shepherd AM, started to put together a proposal to see the tourists play that match in a similar format which had seen the English Team traditionally host the Australian Ashes Touring Side in a 'tour opener' on the ground at the historic Arundel Castle in West Sussex, England.

As with the opening match at Arundel Castle, Mr Shepherd was intending to present his idea to the then Chairman and fellow Members of the Australian Cricket Board to seek their approval for the match to be played on a ground in a more rural, or regional setting, such as Northam or York, rather than at the WACA ground in Perth.

He was also intending to propose that the match be promoted as an official international *'fifty over per side match,'* and that the game be played in a *'festival setting.'*

The concept being put forward by Mr Shepherd was designed (as was the case with the matches at Arundel Castle) to allow the public to get closer to those who played the game at the highest level. Photographs of the ground at Arundel Castle appear hereunder:





Before he could finalise his proposal, and once he found that it would have been too difficult to play the match in Northam or York, Mr Shepherd continued to look for a suitable ground where the match could be played in the format he was proposing, when he had an informal unplanned meeting at the WACA ground with former Midland Guildford Cricket Club Champion Players Keith Slater and Kevin Gartrell. It is my understanding that Mr Shepherd told Kevin & Keith that he was looking to find a link between the early settlement of Western Australian going back to 1829, and a ground that was close to the historic homestead known as 'Woodbridge House' which was built on the southern side of the Swan River in West Midland. It is my understanding that Mr Shepherd also put his idea to Mr Brian Rakich in his then role as Chairman of the WACA. Brian was supportive of the idea from the outset.

Well, it is history know that Keith and Kevin told Mr Shepherd that they had the perfect ground to play this inaugural match. Without any hesitation they suggested that the match be played at Midland Guildford Cricket Club's Home Ground at Lilac Hill in Caversham, as on face value it ticked all-the-boxes Mr Shepherd was looking for. They told Mr Shepherd that the ground was a 'stone throw' from the heritage listed Woodbridge House in West Midland.

I am told that Keith & Kevin told Mr Shepherd that the Midland Guildford Cricket Club would be both pleased and capable of preparing the ground to host the event if it was approved by the ACB. I am reliably informed that they told Mr Shepherd something like: *"You get the approval to hold the match, and we will make it happen for you."*

Once the venue for the match had been chosen and agreed, I am told that Keith introduced Mr Shepherd to the then President of the Midland Guildford Cricket Club, Mr John Moody AM.

At that meeting Mr Moody was told of the proposal to hold the match at his club's home ground, and if the proposal was approved, that his club would be asked to host the event on behalf of the Australian Cricket Board and the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA). After discussing the matter, Mr Moody was happy to support the proposal and that he would play a key role in seeing that the event was successful.

We now know that the proposal put forward by Mr Shepherd to the Chairman and Members of the ACB in early 1990 that the match be played at Lilac Hill (in the format he was suggesting) was approved to be played on a date that was found to be suitable with all parties.

It is history now that the Inaugural Lilac Hill Festival Match between England and the WACA Chairman's X1 was played on Thursday 25 October 1990, and that the event was a tremendous success, with more than 10,000 spectators in attendance. It is also history that a further eighteen (18) ACB sanctioned international one day matches were played at this same ground annually involving all then Test Playing Nations. The results of all those matches are shown in the closing pages of this document.

INAUGRAL LILAC HILL FESTIVAL MATCH COMMITTEE MEETING

My first involvement in this event came in early 1990 when I received an invitation from Mr John Moody AM, the then President of the Midland Guildford Cricket Club, to attend a 'Special Meeting" in the Clubrooms at our ground at Lilac Hill in Caversham. There was no official agenda for that meeting so I sat waiting to see who else had been invited. Others who arrived included fellow Life Members Keith Slater, Kevin Gartrell, Dorham Mann, Denis Yagmich and Mark Weinman.

Well, we did not have to wait long to be told why we had been invited. Mr Moody announced that former Test Player, and then Member of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) Mr Barry Shepherd OAM had approached him saying that he wanted to put a proposal to members of the ACB that the Midland Guildford Cricket Club (MGCC) be asked to host the opening match of the England Touring Team at Lilac Hill in October that year. I assume that Mr Shepherd had told Mr Moody that he had spoken with Keith Slater and Kevin Gartrell about his proposal, and that they had suggested the game could be played at Lilac Hill Park.

The President said that Mr Shepherd was intending to propose that the game was to be presented in a similar format to that which had seen the English Side Host the Australian Ashes Touring Side in a 'tour-opener' on the ground at the Historic Arundel Castle, in West Sussex England. While it was to be promoted as an official International *'Fifty over per Side Match,'* Mr Shepherd was also suggesting it was to be played in a 'festival setting,' hence the request for the MGCC to host the event at our local ground. The concept being put forward by Mr Shepherd was designed (as was the case with the matches at Arundel Castle) to allow the public to get closer to those who played the game at the highest level.

History shows that the proposal Mr Shepherd was intending to put-forward turned-out to be a 'Masterstroke.'

I have posted a photograph of a young Barry Shepherd dressed in his ‘whites’ with one of the bats he wielded so effectively in the nine test matches he played for Australia.



On arriving at the meeting, I recall seeing a portable white-board standing in the corner of the clubhouse. It seemed that the President had given some thought to what the club would need to do if we were to host a match of this importance. On the board he had written headings like:

Ground Preparations, Marketing, Financial Matters, and Hospitality. As the meeting progressed the President asked those present if they were in favour of the proposal, and if so, what role they were prepared to undertake.

After further discussion, Keith Slater agreed to take on the role of ‘Marketing,’ Dorham Mann said he would chair the Hospitality Committee and Dennis Yagmich agreed to look after all the financial matters. Having agreed to become the ‘Chairpersons’ of their respective sub-committees, they all did a remarkable job in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities to help ensure the success of the inaugural Lilac Hill Festival Match, and all remaining eighteen games that followed. Mark Weinman offered to assist Dorham with looking after all matters related to the ‘Hospitality Committee.’

Brenda Mazzuchelli also attended the initial Committee meetings to assist with plans to host the VIP guests who were to be invited.

When John Moody looked to me, I agreed to take on the job of designing the ground layout to house the necessary temporary elevated seating stands, sponsor's marquees, security fencing, food and beverage sales facilities and the large crowd who were expected to attend. Little did I know how much work would be involved in turning the site from a local cricket ground, to a venue to host the English Test Team and a crowd upwards of 10,000 to 11,000 spectators?

To help me with the task I had taken-on, I was able to call on numerous club members, retired players, and the fathers of current players, to help me come up with a way of achieving what was in front of us. In that regard I need to acknowledge the contribution that members of our Ground Committee (and club members more generally) made to plan and prepare the ground for this inaugural match, and for the matches that followed over the next eighteen years.

Those who gave up their time included Tom Pivac, Bob Brooks, John Collins, David Holmes, Mike Dabbs, Ron *(the run machine)* Dunne, Geoff Malaspina, Stewart Walters, Mark Weinman, Glen Gray, Alan Wareing, Christopher Pivac, Rod Martin, Tony Stone, John Gartrell, Ray and Val Martin and a friend of mine named Bob Legge. Life Member Alan Bascombe and wife Val were always available to help when called upon.

While not taking anything away from the efforts of all those who helped prepare the ground each year, I make special mention of John Collins, Bob Brooks, and Tom Pivac who were simply amazing.

Photographs of John Collins, Bob Brooks and Tom Pivac pasted in turn hereunder.


A/22


LADIES



It should also be mentioned that Life Members Ray and Val Martin were at the ground every day in the lead-up to the matches doing whatever they could to assist the club. They prepared light meals each day for the members of the working groups which was greatly appreciated. Val was happy to step-up and do whatever she could to help-out wherever she could. Ray did not confine himself to helping in the kitchen; he got involved in whatever needed to be done to have the ground ready each year.

Photograph of Ray & Val Martin pasted hereunder. Ray is wearing a Lilac Festival Match Shirt which was sold when the South African Test Team played at the ground in November 1997.

More about the role Val played as one of the official Match Scorers for all nineteen games further in the story.



In addition to those named above, we also had the total support of countless club members who gave us hours and hours of their time - every time we called on them. It was a great 'team-effort' all-round that allowed us to achieve our overall task.

THE MATCH GROUND CHOSEN

The first decision we made was to declare that the match needed to be played on what was known as the lower, or southern ground, where there was more room to locate the necessary infrastructure, we would need to accommodate the large crowd who were expected to attend.

GROUND PLAN TABLED AND APPROVED

Once we had given those matters sufficient thought, I drew a ground plan which I tabled (and spoke to) at a formal Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee Meeting attended by Barry Shepherd and my fellow chairpersons. At that meeting, which was chaired by Mr John

Moody, we were reminded that the ACB and the WACA had given their approval for the inaugural match to be held at the Lilac Hill Sportsground on Thursday 25 October 1990.

The inaugural match was to be held between the WACA Chairman's X1 and the England Touring Team.

With that advice in-hand, and once the ground plan was adopted, I set-about securing contracts for the building of temporary grandstands, the hire of sufficient modern transportable toilet facilities, hospitality marquees, outdoor furniture, fast food and drink vans, and range of other services and infrastructure that may have been needed to cover all contingences.

In the search to provide sufficient public toilets facilities, we were fortunate to have found a local company who were able to provide seven large modern mobile self-contained toilet vans which we positioned around the ground to cater for all patrons. The owner/operator of the temporary toilets was at the ground all day with several staff members to ensure the facilities were kept clean and were in good working order. *Rightly or wrongly, the name of the hire company was 'Dynasty Dunnies'.*

In the years that followed, we turned to Coates Hire Service who was able to provide even more modern temporary toilet facilities.

INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY POWER SUPPLY TO SITE

To install the temporary power across the site, we chose to engage Mr Joe Jurjevich, the owner of J & T Electrical Services, to undertake this important and necessary task each year. To commence the undertaking, Mr Jurjevich was required to lodge an application with Western Power Corporation to install a temporary power supply to the site, and upon completion of his work, he was required to obtain a 'Certificate of Electrical Compliance' from that same corporation before he could activate the power source he had installed.

Acting on his expert advice we allowed him to hire the necessary number of quiet running portable diesel-powered generators from which he was able to connect both overhead and underground power lines to the various food vans, temporary kitchen facilities, cool rooms, bars, broadcast van and other facilities that required a safe and reliable source of power. The installation of a reliable temporary power supply was one of the more complex tasks we were

required to manage and oversee each year. Photograph of one of the generators that were positioned on the site:



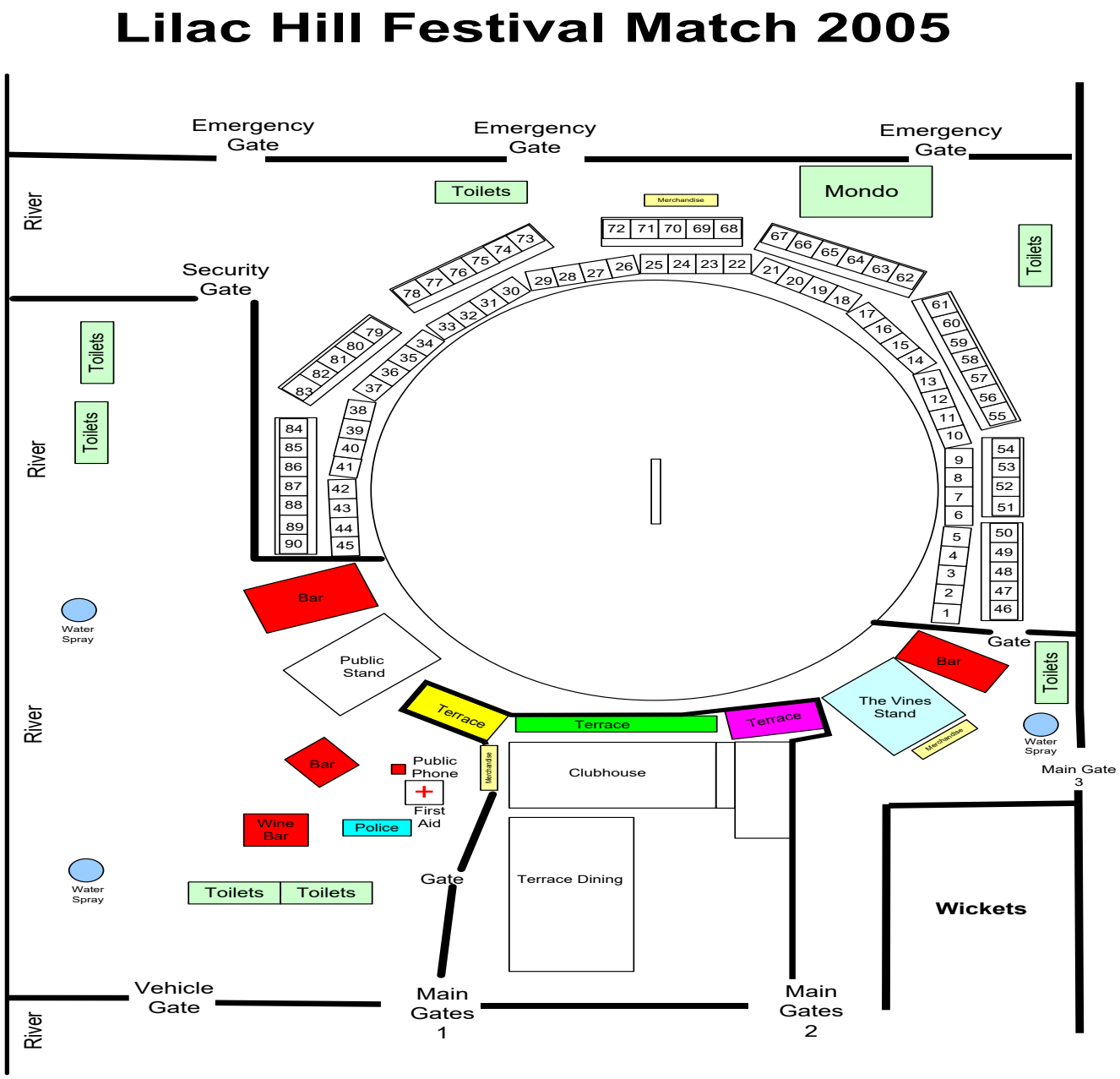
Mr Jurjevich did a marvellous job in installing all the necessary electrical power sources, and ensuring that the site was safe year-in-year-out.

In the lead-up to the inaugural match in 1990, I took two weeks of my annual leave from the Police Service, which I did for all but one of the following years, to ensure I had time to both oversee and assist with the final preparations for all the matches the club hosted.

REVISED GROUND PLAN

In time for the third and all subsequent matches, I found the need to design a second ground plan which showed the positioning of the additional row of elevated ‘Corporate Sponsor’s Marquees’ that had been sold by the Marketing Chairman, together with the other structures,

and facilities that were placed across the site. *A copy of the Ground Plan used for the match in 1992, and for all matches that followed appears hereunder;*



THE GARDEN TERRACED SEATING AREA

One of the first physical tasks we undertook was to re-shape the grass bank in front of the main pavilion to create step-down seating rows that would accommodate ticket holders in the area that would become known as the 'Garden Terrace.'

To enable that to occur we organised a ‘busy-bee’ on a Sunday Morning in early-to-mid 1990, when 30 plus club members turned up with picks and shovels in hand to help us with this enormous task. To get things started we had to remove the grass in slabs across the entire length of the sloping bank. We then had the members dig-out the soil and re-shape the bank to create the ‘step-down levels’ we needed the make.

Photographs pasted hereunder show the team undertaking the removal of the slabs of lawn and working to create the four levels. Match Committee Member Bob Brooks can be seen in the foreground of the first photograph. He was on-hand every day to assist with the various physical projects we undertook.



I have inserted three photographs showing the bricks stacked on-site in readiness for laying, following the busy-bee that was held to re-shape the bank to make the different levels.







Once that work was done, I engaged a friend of mine (on behalf of the Lilac Committee) to construct the brick retaining walls along the four different levels. Once the rows of bricks were laid, we organised a second 'busy bee' when we re-laid the blocks of grass along all

four levels that we had dug out some weeks earlier. With that task done, we did a quick calculation to determine how many spectators could be seated along each of the four rows.



Life Member and former First Grade Opening Batsman Glen Gray can be seen in the above photograph examining the new brickwork with another unnamed member. The slabs of turf that we removed from the sloping bank several weeks earlier can be seen stacked near the front of the main clubhouse ready for re-laying on the new terraced area.

We estimated that we could seat 90 adults in each row giving us a total of 360 places that could be sold in this prime viewing area.

The same bricklayer also built the two brick entry statements leading into the ground off West Swan Road. Those two entry statements still stand to this day,

Following consultation with officials at the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) we arranged to borrow thirty-plus heavy green coloured wooden benches to take back to the club where they were positioned end-to-end along the rows of the newly constructed terrace seating area. For each of the remaining eighteen matches we hired white plastic chairs for this area, as seen in the photographs hereunder, which proved to be much more comfortable for the Garden Terrace Patrons.

This seating area was not covered for the Inaugural Match in 1990; however, we did provide shade for the patrons at all future matches as can be seen in the following photographs. It was indeed a prime comfortable position to watch the games.





When writing about the garden terrace seating area, I must commend Life Member and former Club Champion Kevin Gartrell AM for arranging to sell the 360 Garden Terrace tickets, not once, but for every one of the nineteen matches. Brigitte Pivac (Life Member of the Club) who was working at Slater Gartrell Sports in the early 1990's assisted Kevin with the ticket sales for most of the matches that followed.

Kevin and Brigitte were able to sell additional seats in the Garden Terrace for the games that followed when we had contractors build a temporary stand at the eastern end of the new terraced area. That additional raised seating area is shown in the photograph pasted on the previous page,

Kevin arranged for club volunteers to act as drink waiters to look after the needs of guests who were seated in this prime viewing area. That alone was an enormous task for those club volunteers given the number of patrons who needed to be served throughout the day.

MERCHARDISING DESIGN AND SALES

Kevin and his staff from Slater Gartrell Sports also took responsibility for designing, ordering, and selling all the Lilac Hill Festival Match Merchandise, such as hats, polo shirts, windcheaters, and mini autograph bats, from a marquee at each of the nineteen Lilac Hill Festival Matches. Kevin also arranged to have a professional cricket bat maker at the ground demonstrating his skills and expertise to the crowd during the day.

TEMPORARY RAISED SEATING

In the weeks leading to the inaugural match, we arranged to borrow several sections of small raised aluminium seating stands from the Swan Districts Netball Association, Midland Oval, and the Mirrabooka Sports Centre. Former First Grade Player & Life Member Geoff Malaspina, with the help of several club members, took charged of transporting those stands by truck to the ground. *Photographs of those stands in position for the inaugural match are pasted hereunder.*







In addition to those smaller stands, we had contractors from AKA Stage and Seating, build a large temporary grandstand on the eastern side of the ground, to which we were able to

secure the scoreboard to the top of the stand where it could be seen from most parts of the ground. To enable spectators seated on the eastern side of the ground to stay in touch with proceedings, we attached a large steel scoreboard we had salvaged from Midland Oval to one of the temporary stands we had borrowed for the day.

With that work done, our members turned up again and painted the old grandstand and the scoreboards in time for the inaugural match.

NEW SCOREBOARDS- NAME & NUMBER PLATES

Next, we found we needed two new sets of players' nameplates, team nameplates and of course numberplates to hang on both boards. This is where Life Member Alan Bascombe proved to be of value. Within a week of being alerted to our needs, Alan turned up at the club with the new scoreboard plates that he had made at his workplace. I took the nameplates/numberplates (with the names of players from both sides) to a sign writer in Osborne Park who had been recommended by officials at the WACA. In good time for the match, we had all the new scoreboard plates' in-hand. As mentioned earlier, Alan was always on hand when we needed his help and input on a range of matters.

GROUND & WICKET PREPARATION

The club was most fortunate to have had the services of several curators working at the ground in the lead-up to both the inaugural Lilac Hill Festival Match and for the games that followed. Those in charge in the early 1990's did a wonderful job in preparing the ground and wickets for the Festival Matches and for the club's pennant matches that were played on the grounds each season.

To have greater control over who was managing the grounds and preparing the wickets, the Club was able to enter into an agreement with the then Shire of Swan that allowed the club to appoint their own curator to be responsible for the upkeep and preparation of wickets on all three grounds within the greater Lilac Hill site. In that regard the club appointed Drew Parker as the Curator at the club. Drew went onto prepare the wickets and grounds for a number of Lilac Festival Matches that were hosted by the club.

Drew came to the club at a young age after his cricketing talents were recognised while playing for the Swan Leigh Residential College against more senior cricketers in the Swan & Helena Cricket Association. Drew worked his way up-through-the-grades at the club to

eventually be selected in the first-grade side where he proved to be a more than capable fast bowler and handy batsman.

In his role as Curator Drew was widely recognised for the quality of the grounds, and for the wickets he was able to prepare, not only for the Lilac Festival Matches, but as stated above for all the pennant matches that were played on the grounds each season.

To assist him with the workload Drew employed a fine young club player named Michael Foskett as an apprentice to assist him with managing the workload. Michael was quick to learn the art of preparing quality wickets and gained the respect of club members more generally.

Like Drew, Michael made his way through the grades to be appointed as Captain of the second-grade side, before being selected in the top side, and in the 2023 season, Michael was appointed to the position of Head Coach of the club. Michael also served on the Club's Management Committee for several years where he made a significant contribution.

Drew was also able to engage another club member in Paul Davies to assist him with the increasing workload at the grounds. Like Michael, Paul did a great job in helping to maintain the high standards that had been set by those who worked in this role earlier.

In the lead-up to the festival matches Drew, Michael & Paul worked closely with members of the Ground Committee and club volunteers to enable the placement and construction of the temporary grandstands, marquees, the positioning of temporary toilet vans, fast food vans, and other necessary infrastructure while ensuring the playing surface was protected from the movement of the heavy delivery trucks and vans that were required to move around within the confines of the site.

Drew and members of his team received complimentary feedback from the Managers of all visiting International Teams, the ACB, the WACA, and Members of the Lilac Festival Management Committee on the work they were able to do in preparing wickets.

In recognition of their work as curators, players, and valued members of the club, Drew and Michael were both, in turn, honoured with Life Membership.

In closing this segment of the story, it would have remiss not to mention the excellent work of Jaydan Petrich who took responsibility for preparing the wickets and grounds for the final few Festival Matches that were played at the ground.

MANAGEMENT OF PARKING AREAS

To comply with the strict conditions set by the Local Government Authority (the then Shire of Swan) we used the northern most ground for one of the two parking zones which were both effectively managed by members of the Ellenbrook Lions Club under the leadership of their long serving President Mr John Edgecombe. The second parking area was in the parkland adjacent to the banks of the Swan River at the southernmost part of the complex with access gained by turning off West Swan Road and under Barkers Bridge. We applied for, and gained special permission from the Swan River Trust Authority, to utilise that protected area for parking.

We were fortunate that Mr Edgecombe and members of his club made themselves available to manage the parking of patron's vehicles for all nineteen (19) Festival Matches. In return for their services, they were rewarded with monetary donations which they were able to use to fund several local charitable events within the local region.

GARDEN TERRACE GARDEN LUNCHEON MARQUEE

We also found that we needed to utilise the top, or northern side playing field to position a large hospitality marquee which was used as the luncheon venue for the 360 Garden Terrace patrons who had purchased tickets to be seated in that area.

During the lunch breaks, the Marketing Chairman, Keith Slater and Kevin Gartrell arranged to have Guest Speakers entertain the crowd. Over the years those speakers included former State and Australian Test Players and Media Personalities.

See photographs of the Garden Terrace Hospitality Luncheon Marquee we hired to accommodate these guests pasted hereunder:





SECTIONS OF WHITE PICKET DIVIDER FENCING

We found that we would need to build multiple lengths of white picket type free-standing fencing to place between the ground level sponsors marquees as a means of keeping each space separated. We also placed these sections of fencing in other locations around the ground to prevent unauthorised entry into the Garden Terrace and VIP areas.

To build the sections of fencing, the club members attended at Tom Pivac's property in West Swan over several weekends where we cut and attached the wooden pickets to steel frames that he had arranged to be constructed. In all we made sixty plus lengths of the fencing and in the lead-up to the first festival match the club members turned-out again and painted the fencing.

It should also be noted that Tom repaired and re-painted the site club's site screens in time for the inaugural match.

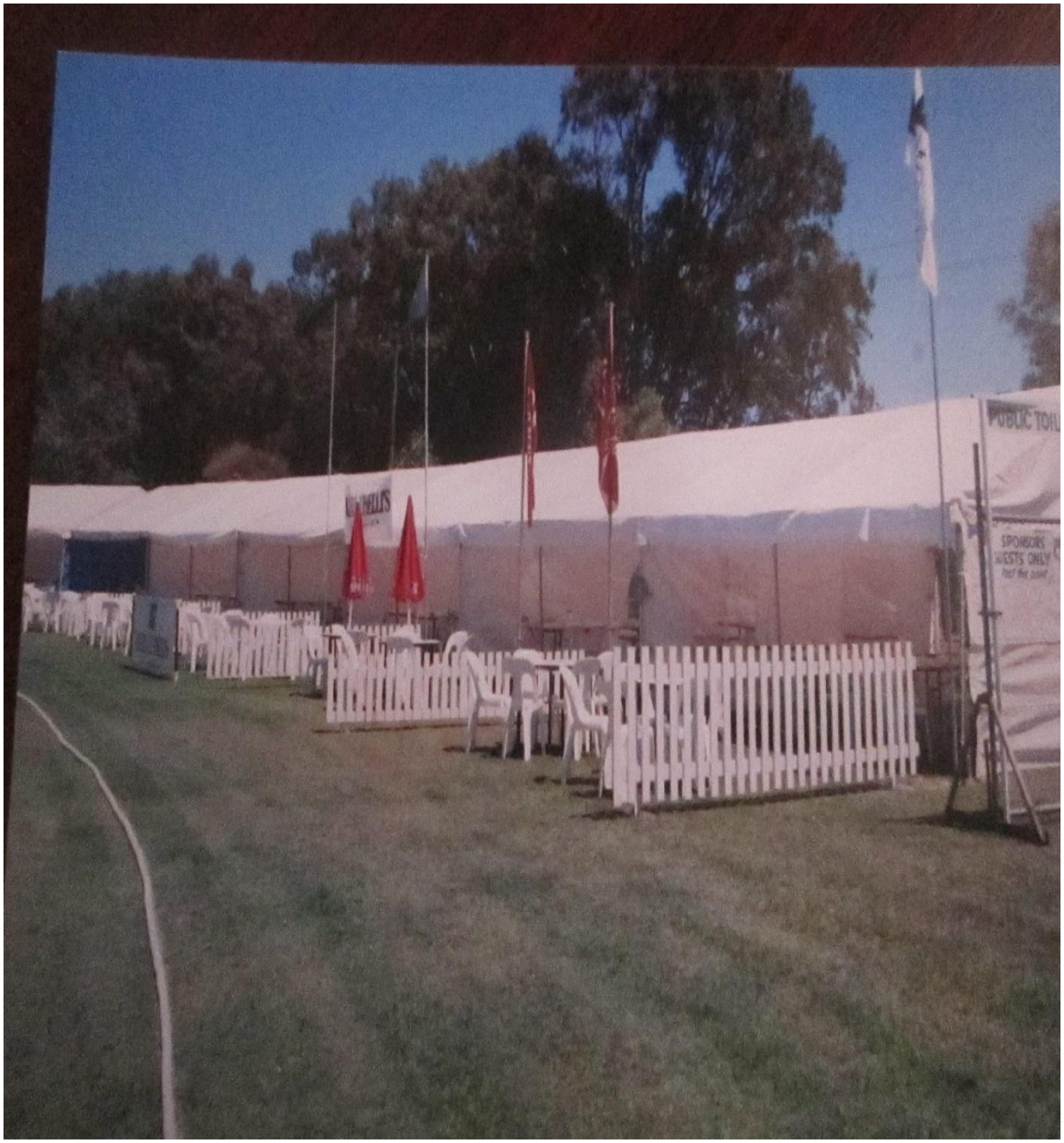
Photographs of those fencing panels taken on Tom's property in 1990 can be seen hereunder:





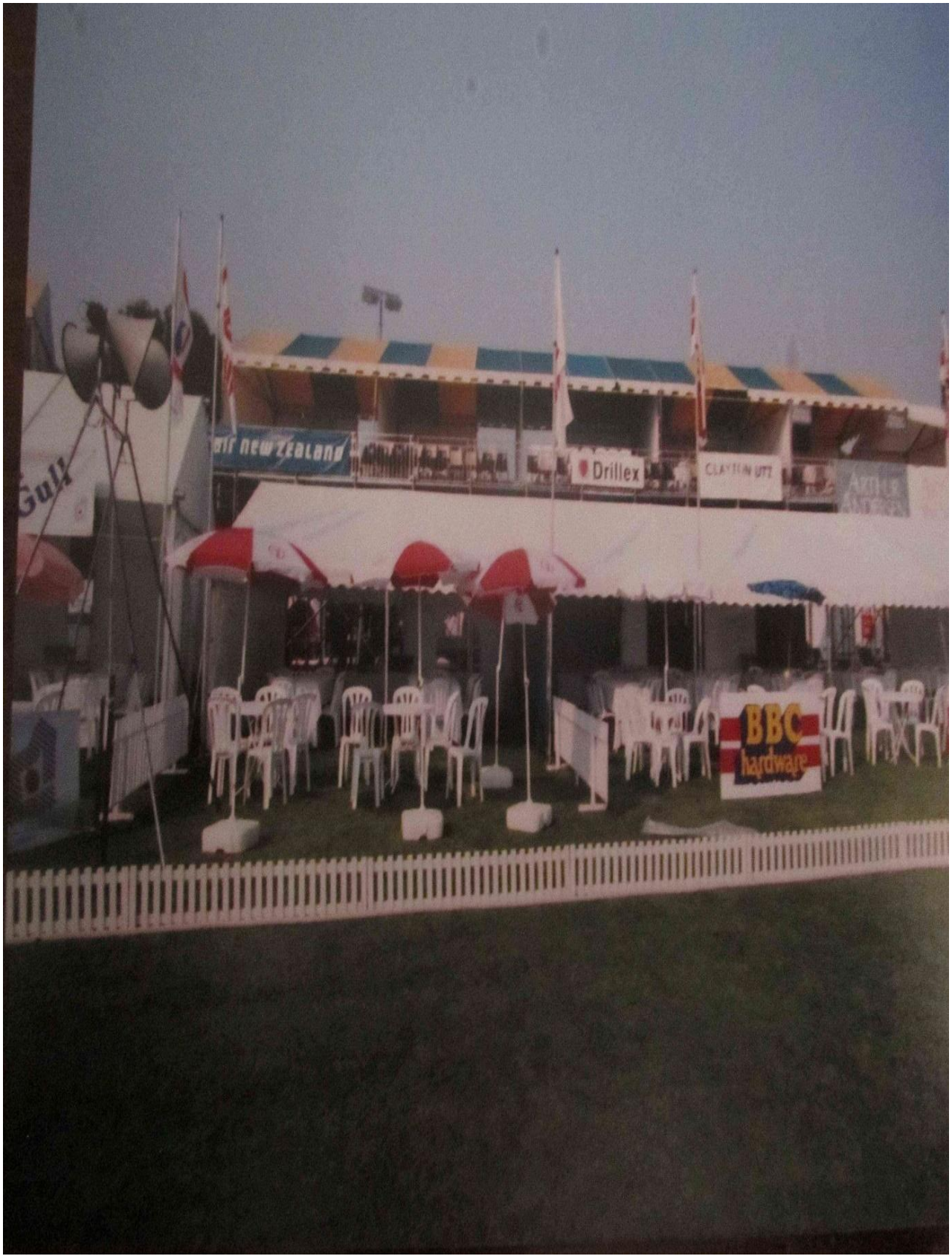
Speaking of fencing, we also built smaller specially designed sections of fencing to use as flower planter boxes which we positioned on either side of the player's race in front of the Garden Terrace. We went one step further and made upwards of 100 metres of 12" high white fencing panels which we positioned behind the boundary rope at the clubhouse end of the ground.

The first photograph hereunder depicts the fencing panels positioned in front of the initial ground level sponsor's marquees. The next two photographs show the flower boxes positioned either side of the player's race, and the white wooden fencing positioned outside the boundary line that were taken before the start of the third match played in 1992.








Gulf
air new zealand
Drillex
BBC
hardware

MANAGEMENT OF ENTRY GATES

Among many of the tasks undertaken by the Ground Committee was the installation and positioning of the entry gates at both ends of the ground from where patrons arriving could be directed to their designated seating areas. These same entry points were used for VIP guests, corporate sponsors and their guests, garden terrace patrons and those holding public entry tickets. Life Member and former first grade player Glen Gray took responsibility for managing the entry of 10,000 plus patrons into the ground for all nineteen matches.

Glenn's Deputy at a number of those early matches was the well-known and highly respected Swan Valley identity Mr John Brajkovich. Sadly, we lost John in 1999, hence the decision to dedicate the northern entrance gates in his honour with a sign that can be seen in one of the photographs shown hereunder. Glen Gray can be seen standing near the sign that he arranged to be made and hung on the fence every year from 2000 to 2008.


VIP
Guests
GARDEN TERRACE
PATRONS
ADMISSION
$15.00
Pensioners $10.
Children $10.
MARQUEE
Guests
GENERAL ADMISSION
ENTRANCE

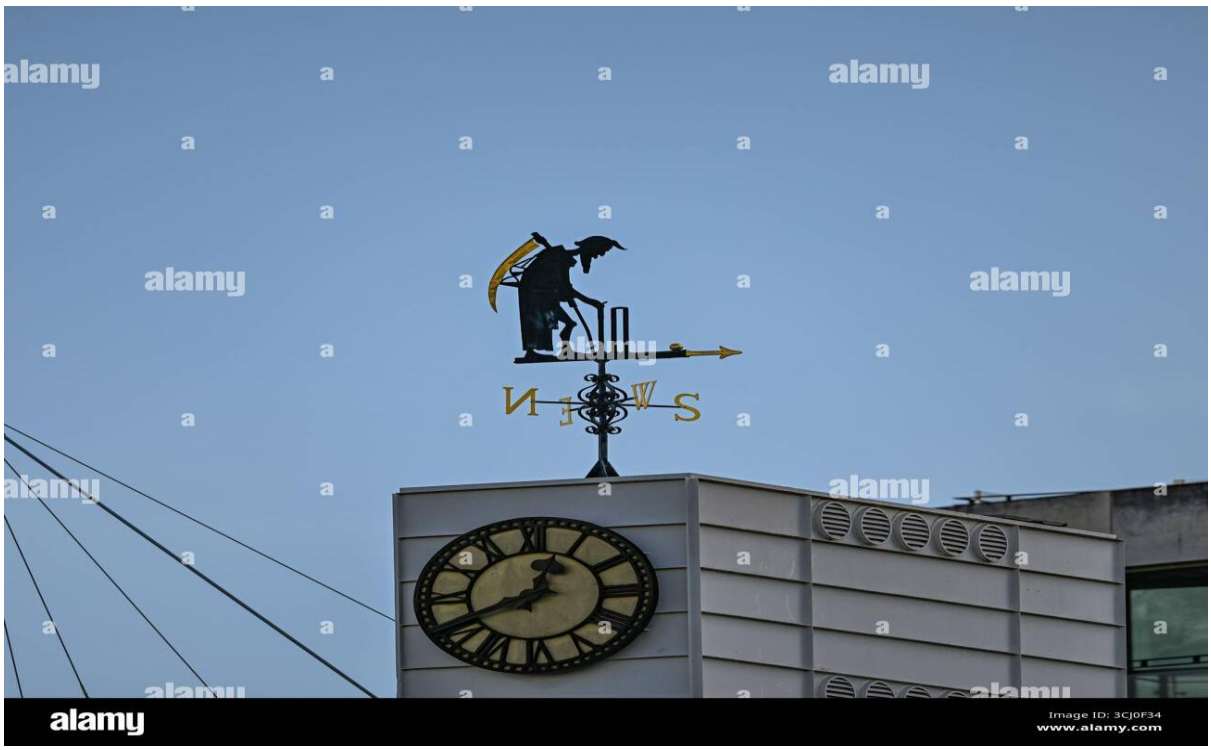

THE
JOHN BRAJKOVICH
MEMORIAL GATES

Glen and John were supported by a team of former players and club members in fulfilling this most important role. Glen and his team were not only responsible for ensuring the orderly admission of all attendees, he was also required to ensure that all pre-sold tickets and monies collected at the gates was reconciled and placed into the hands of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr Dennis Yagmich.

At each of the nineteen matches Glen and members of his team also took responsibility for selling the souvenir programs both at the entrance gates and around the ground throughout the day. That alone was an important task which again required Glen to ensure the effective handling of all monies collected. Glenn was always willing to put-up-his-hand to do anything he could to make sure everything was done in time for the start of every match.

NEW GROUND CLOCK

In the lead-up to the inaugral match in October 1990, Former Club Champion Wicket Keeper Dave Thomas set-about building a beautiful woodened framed clock for the club, complete with a replicia of the famous Lords Cricket Ground 'Father Time Figure ' and 'Wind Directional Vain'. Photograph of the Father Time Figure from Lords Cricket Ground shown hereunder:



Not only was Dave a talented wicketkkeeper who played in the club's A Grade Side for many years, he was also a skilled Cabinet Maker/Carpenter who was widely recognised for his work across the Shire of Swan (and beyond) over many years. Upon completition, Dave mounted the clock on the front of the clubhouse façade where it could be seen from all parts of the southern ground. It was a wonderul gesture by Dave and it remains in place to this day. *Photograph of Dave with his wife Millie in the pink blouse, and friend Kaye Slater standing under the impressive time piece he donated to the club.*



Rather than try to explain in words what we (the Ground Committee) *supported by members of the club* were able to achieve to host this inaugural fixture, I have attached *'before' and 'after'* photographs so readers can appreciate how we were able to prepare the ground in October 1990 to accommodate 35 corporate sponsors marquees, the 360 spectators who paid for premium seats in the 'Garden Terrace' and of course sufficient grandstand seating and other spaces for the general public which grew to over 10,000 by the time the first ball was bowled.

THE SOUTHERN GROUND

BEFORE EACH FESTIVAL MATCH



THE INAUGRUAL MATCH SETTING

WACA CHAIRMAN'S X1

VS

ENGLAND

25 OCTOBER 1990



The area with the black & white umbrella's shown in the foreground of the photograph above was reserved for the one hundred and twenty VIP Guests who were invited to attend the match. In that same photograph readers can see the backs of the green benches in the Garden Terrace seating area we borrowed from the WACA Ground for the match in 1990.

Those who attended the inaugural match, and the games which followed, came by car, by train, by foot, by bus, and surprisingly by boat up the Swan River. I suspect that we did not account for that latter mode of travel, and I can only assume that they were able to enter the ground free-of-charge. To assist those who travelled by train to Guildford Station, and with the help of the Department of Transport, we were able to arrange a shuttle bus to take patrons to and from the ground free of charge. *Photograph hereunder shows the boats (large and small) moored at the bank of the Swan River.*



INAUGURAL MATCH

25 OCTOBER 1990

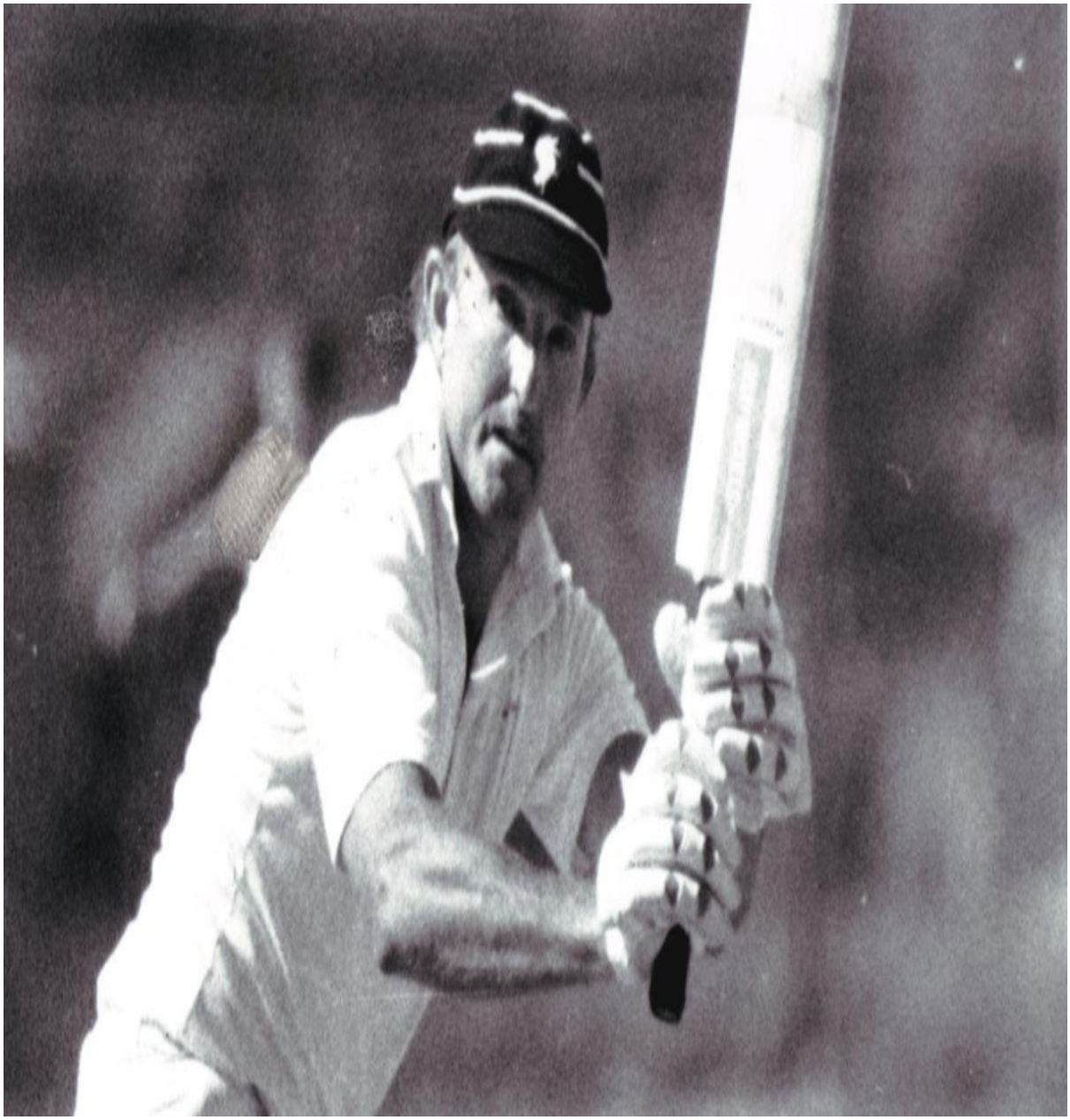
MASTER OF CEREMONIES

The Master of Ceremonies for this historic occasion was one of the best cricketers ever to play for the Midland Guildford Cricket Club. The honour of officiating as Master of Ceremonies for this inaugural Lilac Hill Festival Match (and all but one of the nineteen Matches) was given to former Premiership Winning 1st Grade Club Captain, Life Member and former WA State and Australian Test Player, Mr Tony Mann.

Tony was one of the best all-rounders to play the game in Western Australia. He was a wonderful exponent of leg spin bowling and was a talented hard-hitting left-hand batsman.

The club could not have selected a better cricketer or a better representative to fulfil the role of Master of Ceremonies for this special occasion. Sadly, Tony lost his battle with Pancreatic Cancer in 2019. *Photographs of Tony hereunder:*





OFFICIAL WELCOMING CEREMONY

Having been introduced by the Master of Ceremonies, The President of the West Australian Cricket Association, Mr Tom Perrott AM welcomed members of the England Team to Australia, and to Lilac Hill for the match against the WACA President's X1. I have pasted a copy of Mr Perrott's Welcoming Message on page 50 of this document.

The England Tour Manager, Mr Peter Lush was also invited to address the crowd during the opening ceremony.

To enhance the colour and theme of the Opening Ceremony, Dorham Mann was able to arrange to have the teams piped-onto the field by the beautifully presented Presbyterian Ladies College Pipe Band. We were fortunate that the same band was able to assist at a number of the opening ceremonies in the 1990's & early 2000's. On other occasions, I was able to arrange to have the WA Police Pipe Band lead the teams onto the ground. They were equally impressive. *Photographs of both bands shown hereunder:*







WELCOME BACK TO ALEC STEWART

The inaugural Lilac Hill Festival Match was also an opportunity to welcome Alec Stewart back to our club where he had performed so brilliantly during his stay with us in the summers of the 1980's.

To make Alec Stewart feel at home, we placed a large sign on top of the main grandstand on the eastern side of the ground. The sign read:

"WELCOME BACK ALEC."

QUEEN'S HONOURS BESTOWED ON ALEC STEWART

Importantly, it should be noted that on the 13th of June 1988 Alec was made a 'Member of the Order of the British Empire' by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.

Alec received a further well-deserved honour when was again invited to Buckingham Palace where Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth appointed him as a Member of the Order of the British Empire on the 14th of June 2003.

I have pasted a photograph of the English Touring Party showing them assembled on the ground prior to the commencement of play. Alec can be seen standing in the centre of the middle row.

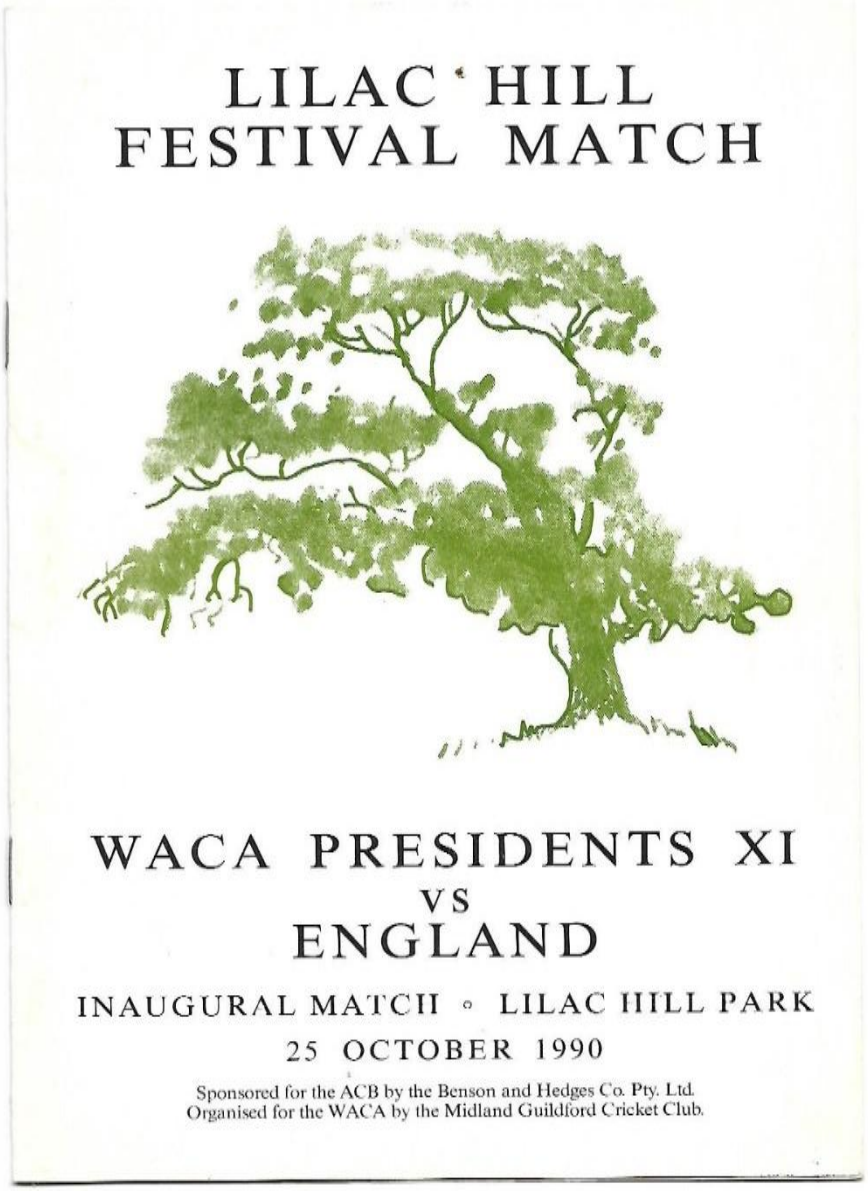
I have also pasted a photograph of the players who were selected in the WACA Chairman's XI for this match:





Rather than try to describe the contents of the initial souvenir programme, I have copied and pasted the front cover of that first edition, along with several pages which show (1) the

welcome message written by President of the WACA, Mr Tom Perrott AM, (2) Mr John Moody's Welcoming Statement, *(3)* along with a full description of the day's activities as shown hereunder:



LILAC HILL
FESTIVAL MATCH

WACA PRESIDENTS XI
VS
ENGLAND

INAUGURAL MATCH • LILAC HILL PARK
25 OCTOBER 1990

Sponsored for the ACB by the Benson and Hedges Co. Pty. Ltd.
Organised for the WACA by the Midland Guildford Cricket Club.

W A C A PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am delighted to have this opportunity of welcoming the England team to Australia, and particularly to Lilac Hill for their match against the President's XI.

The Midland-Guildford Cricket Club has been honoured by the WACA by being invited to host the opening match of the English tour, the first time this type of match has been held in Western Australia, and Australia, under the auspices of the Australian Cricket Board. This initiative, promoted by our delegates Mr Lawrie Sawle and Mr Barry Shepherd is acknowledged with gratitude.

The task force for this event has been chaired by Mr John Moody, President of the Midland-Guildford Cricket Club, and he, with the ladies and gentlemen of this organisation and with the support of the Shire of Swan, have worked with enthusiasm and dedication to have this ground and its environs ready for this great day.

May it be a memorable occasion ...

T.J. PERROTT A.M., Cit. WA.
President, West Australian Cricket Association.

Midland-Guildford Cricket Club

(Est. 1905)



Welcome to the Swan Valley and to Lilac Hill Park for the inaugural Festival Match.

It is a privilege for the Midland-Guildford Cricket Club to be your hosts and it is our hope that you will thoroughly enjoy your day.

A number of people have made this event possible and deserve our sincere appreciation.

J.M. Moody
President.

SIR DONALD BRADMAN, A.C.

KENSINGTON PARK,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5068

12. 7. 90

Dear Bruce,

Your letter of 5th July just to hand. I know your invitation is intended to pay me a great compliment but I'm afraid that at age 81 (next month) I am no longer able to travel + attend functions as of yore.

I am sure you will understand the position and excuse me.

Remember should be a great pipe opener. I hope you have a wonderful day

Kind regards,

Sincerely,

Don Bradman

OFFICIAL MATCH PROGRAM

0900 – 1000am	Entertainment by Numguts Bush Band
10:00am – 10:30am	**Opening Ceremony** Players and Officials piped onto the ground by the Presbyterian Ladies College Pipe Band.

ADDRESSES BY:

Mr Tom Perrot, President WACA

Mr Peter Lush, England Tour Manager

TOSS OF COIN

10:30am – 1:30pm	First Session of Play
1:30am – 2:30pm	Lunch & Entertainment by Numguts Bush Band
2:30pm – 5:30pm	Second Session of Play
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Presentations of Player's Awards Presentations of Special Wine Demijohns to players from Mr John Moody, President MGCC
Closing Addresses:	Mr Tom Perrot, President WACA & Mr Peter Lush, England Tour Manager

<u>The Umpires for the Inaugural Match were:</u>

Terry Prue & Barry Rennie

The Official Souvenir Programme also contained a highly valued hand written note from Sir Donald Bradman AC (dated 12/7/90) in which he extended his thanks for having been invited to attend the match, along with his reasons for not being able to accept.



Photograph of Sir Donald Bradman AC pasted above.

The booklet also contained names of those in the England Touring Party and those selected to represent the WACA Chairman's X1.

ENGLND TOURING TEAM

Graham Gooch (Captain), Alan Lamb, David Gower, Robert (Jack) Russell, Eddie Hemmings, Robin Smith, Alec Stewart, Gladstone Small, Wayne Larkins, Angus Fraser, Michael Atherton, Devon Malcolm, Christopher Lewis, John Morris, Philip Tufnell, Martin Bicknell. Michael Stewart (Team Manager) & Peter Lush (Tour Manager)

WACA PRESIDENT'S TEAM

Jeff Marsh (Captain), Dennis Lillee, Tom Moody, Mike Veletta, Tim Zoehrer, Wayne Andrews, Jo Angel, Chris Mack, Brett Mulder, Terry Waldron, Matthew May & Brendan Julian. MGCC Player Michael Collins was 12th man for the WACA President's X1.

Tom Moody was awarded the 'Player of the Match' after scoring a century for the President's XI. Tom was presented with two bottles of 'Mann Sparkling Wine' that had been donated by Mr Dorham Mann.

It should also be noted that Alec Stewart enjoyed his return to the ground showing his class with the bat making top score of 70 runs for his team.

In one of his many roles on the day of this inaugural fixture, Keith Slater was photographed interviewing England Opening batsman Mr Atherton.



RIVER CRUISE BACK TO THE CITY

Having hosted a reception at the end of the inaugural match, the Chairman of the Festival Match Organising Committee, Mr John Moody AM invited players to join him and several other match officials, to travel back to the city on one of the luxury Swan Valley Wine River Cruise Vessels where they were served with a light meal and refreshments enroute. It was a lovely way to end a great day.



On the journey back to Perth I was told that former Club President & Life Member, the late Waddy Fear was seen sitting talking with England Players Robin Smith and Alan Lamb, who were both born in South Africa. Waddy was waxing lyrical telling both men about his wide-ranging cricketing exploits in his broad distinctive accent, when eventually Alan Lamb, turned to Robin Smith to say in his native 'Africana tongue'

"What is he on-about Robin and who is this chap?"

Waddy of course picked-up on what Alan Lamb had said (in African) and was heard to say, *"Oh, who am I. I was appointed captain of the East Africana National Cricket team before you two were even born. "Enough said!*

Photograph of Waddy Fear pasted hereunder:



THE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

In looking back to the history of that very first Match in October 1990, I felt it was important to touch-on the overarching role Mr John Moody AM played in presiding over the Lead Committee, and what I, and my fellow Chairpersons of the other sub-committees were

required to consider, and do, with their respective helpers to ensure the success of this inaugural match and for the eighteen Lilac Hill Festival Matches that followed.

THE LILAC HILL FESTIVAL MATCH COMMITTEE

From the moment our Club President Mr John Moody AM spoke with Mr Barry Shepherd about the possibility of the Midland Guildford Cricket Club hosting an International Cricket Match at Lilac Hill, Mr Moody embraced the idea with all the dignity and energy he could muster.



From that first meeting with Mr Shepherd, Mr Moody started the ball rolling by bringing together the people he thought could come up with the plans to enable such a venture to occur. All our official Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee Meetings were held in the boardroom of the Guildford Grammar School where John was the headmaster for many years. Mr Moody arranged to have the minutes of all meetings recorded by the School Bursar Mr Roy Schuler, and kept for future reference.

Mr Moody was the perfect man to represent the club on this proposal, as he was able to have direct contact with Members of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), and indeed within the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA), which enabled him to fully understand what was expected of our club to prepare for this unique and important cricketing event. Mr Moody also took a keen interest in the planning and work that was being undertaken by the 'Chairpersons' of the four sub-committees to ensure that they had all bases covered in the lead-up to the inaugural match on the 25th October 1990.

As planning for the inaugural match progressed, Mr Moody put forward the idea of producing a Lilac Hill Festival Match Souvenir Programme that would serve as a memento of the day. The booklet produced for the inaugural match and for the matches that followed proved to be extremely popular with all concerned.

From memory I believe that Mr Max Viskovich (a former Midland Guildford Player) played a leading hand in producing those booklets. It should be noted that similar Souvenir Programmes were produced for all nineteen Festival Matches that were played at the ground.

In many of the programme booklets that were produced, well-known local journalist & Honorary Life Member of the WA Cricket Association, Mr Ken Casellas wrote articles describing the careers of those who played in the games, or those who were 'Guests of Honour' at the matches. One of the articles written by Ken touched on the amazing career of South African Test Player Mr Barry Richards and Australian Test Player Rod Marsh.

MARKETING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MR KEITH SLATER OAM

From the moment the Australian Cricket Board gave their approval for our club to host this important international sporting event, Keith (Spud) Slater OAM hit-the-ground-running in his role as Chairperson of the Marketing Committee.

Within days of that announcement, we found that he had secured commitments from numerous 'Corporates' who had expressed their interest in hosting their guests in one of the hospitality marquees. I found a photograph of Keith on the occasion he was made a 'Life Member' of the West Australian Cricket Association. This prestigious award was presented to Keith by Mr Dennis Lillee AM, MBE in 2013.



It is history now that Keith was able to ‘sell’ every corporate marquee for every one of the nineteen Lilac Hill Festival Matches that were held. Keith’s connections with the ‘Corporate Community’ were incredible. Through his efforts, starting with the first match in 1990, through to the last of the nineteen games in 2008, we were virtually guaranteed that all outgoing costs to conduct the matches were covered. More on the amazing work undertaken by the Chairman of Marketing later in this story.

Sadly, we lost Keith in February 2025. Keith was one of the best sportsmen to come from the local district, and he will be fondly remembered by everyone who had the good fortune to have known him. Fittingly, Keith was farewelled at a beautiful ceremony that was held at the Lilac Hill Ground on Friday 28 March 2025. The tributes expressed by the speakers on that day were just perfect.

As mentioned earlier Kevin Gartrell AM, assisted by Life Member Brigitte Pivac, stepped-up to assist Keith looking after the sale of the initial three hundred and sixty (360) tickets in what we called the Garden Terrace Seating Zone. The price of those seats included a sit-down lunch with a range of fine table wines, beers and soft drinks in the large marquee that was erected on the northern ground. *Photograph of Kevin Gartrell pasted hereunder:*



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

MR DORHAM MANN OAM

Given his extensive involvement, connections and knowledge of the wine industry in the Swan Valley, and indeed across the south-west of the state, and his links with people within the hospitality industry, Dorham was the perfect choice to take up the challenge to Chair this important committee, Photograph *of Dorham pasted hereunder:*



Probably the most important decision Dorham and members of his committee had to make in the lead up to the first match was to identify a local caterer who would be capable of serving morning tea/coffee, sit-down lunches, and afternoon tea with scones to 2,000 plus guests in the corporate marquees, and lunch to the 360 ticket-holders seated in the Garden Terrace.

Dorham wisely chose local business man Mr Vince Garreffa, from Mondo Catering to deliver this important undertaking. *Photograph of Vince Garreffa shown hereunder:*



In the lead-up to the inaugural match Dorham and I meet with Mr Garreffa to establish what he would need in the way of facilities, to prepare, convey and serve, morning/afternoon teas and the large number of hot-cooked lunch meals to guests in each marquee in the one-hour

lunch-time-break while also serving lunch to the 360 ticket-holders in the Garden/Terrace Marquee.

As mentioned earlier, and to assist Mr Garreffa in fulfilling his catering contract, we erected a large marquee at the southern end of the ground which was used as the main kitchen and preparation site. We also erected a second large marquee adjacent to the Garden Terrace Luncheon venue to give Vince and members of his catering team easy access to that site. Power to both sites was run from silent running diesel generators we hired for the event. We also positioned refrigerated cool rooms adjacent to his two preparation marquees for his use.



To ensure the morning/afternoon teas and meals could be served simultaneously to the corporate guests we positioned what we called ‘holding marquees’ at strategic locations adjacent the sponsors tents where the food was held in warming ovens and temporary cool rooms in readiness for serving.





As with the ‘drink waiters ‘in the Garden Terrace area, Dorham arranged for members of a local church group from Guildford to act as stewards in each of the corporate marquees to look after the guests every need. The photographs pasted hereunder shows (1) the group of Marquee Stewards & Stewardesses being briefed in front of the ground level and upper-level Sponsor’s Marquees, prior to the commencement of one of the matches, and (2) one of the

stewardesses attending to the guests in the front of her designated marquee. These people did a marvellous job looking after the needs of the corporate guests.





As with all the other external groups who were assigned various tasks, the local church group was rewarded for their work.

Dorham, assisted by Mark Weinman was responsible for arranging to have a full range of beverages (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) on site to satisfy the needs of all attendees.

Calling on his many contacts with wine makers in the Swan Valley, Dorham was able to choose a wide range of fine premium table wines from various local Swan Valley wineries that could be served to guests in the Corporate Marquees, the Garden Terrace, the VIP area, and made available for sale to patrons seated around the ground. The range of premium wines chosen by Dorham proved to be extremely popular with all guests, and of course it was a way of promoting the range of local premium Swan Valley Wines to a wide audience. Dorham sourced the fine premium table wines from the following local wineries, which included his own outlet known as Mann Winery.

Westfield Wines (Now John Kosovich Winery)
Olive Farm Wines
Sandalford Wines
Houghton Wines
Lamont's Wines

Beer supplies (of various brands) were sourced from the Chateau Liquor Store in Guildford.

Mark Weinman and members of his team were on-hand all day to ensure that a full range of beverages and bags of ice were delivered to all public bars, food/drink sales vans, and the corporate marquees throughout the day. In addition to the delivery of the beverages and ice, Mark was required to keep a record of what was taken to each Corporate Marquee so Dennis Yagmich, in consultation Dorham Mann could write those purchases into the final invoices. That alone was an enormous task to undertake, and together Mark Weinman, Dorham, and Dennis did a sensational job, not just at the inaugural match, but for all eighteen games that followed.

As stated above all the necessary beverages were purchased from local suppliers and wineries and we were fortunate that one of the local shipping container companies kindly supplied several large refrigerated containers (free of charge) to keep the drinks cold and food fresh during the day.

VIP CATERING & HOSPITALITY

Dorham engaged Kate Lamont AM from Lamont Winery & Restaurant to prepare and serve the meals to the one-hundred and twenty VIP Guests who were seated in the main clubroom for lunch.

Members of the Club's Ladies Committee initially led by Mrs Brenda Mazzuchelli set-up the main clubroom for this special occasion, and assisted with the serving of the meals and drinks. I am reliably informed that Club Life Member Phyllis Gray assisted Brenda in recruiting the ladies who helped in the VIP area.

Photograph hereunder shows President of the Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee Mr John Moody seated with his wife Janet and the then Premier of Western Australia the Hon Geoff Gallop MLA being served in the VIP viewing area by one of the volunteers who assisted guests during the day.



In the years that followed, Phyllis Gray played a pivotal role in ensuring there were sufficient volunteers in the VIP area to cater for the needs of the special guests. Those who helped Brenda and Phyllis at the inaugural match, and at some of the matches which followed included, Judy Holmes, Brigitte Pivac, Christine Carey, Val Bascombe, June Gartrell, Sally

Mann, Kerry Katich, Janet Moody, Jan Wareing, Anthea Mann, Maxine Mack, Carolyn Parker, Julie Weinman and Jan Van Vliet.

Given her past experience in the Hospital Industry, Club Life Member Judy Holmes was able to guide the others on how best to set the dining tables for those formal occasions. Supplies of fine crockery, crystal wine glasses and cutlery were hired from Reece's Hire Service, and Port Hire to allow the ladies to set-the-scene for a 'fine dining experience.'

Phyllis was also able to call-upon several of her close relatives to assist in this important role. I found a photograph that was taken at one of the matches which shows Phyllis and her team of beautifully dressed volunteers. From left-to-right they are:

Back-row from left to right are: *Susan Bracknell, Jessica Farmer, Samantha Bracknell, (male not known), Ashley Turill, Robyn Hart, Jane farmer & Angela Goodchild.*

Front-row left to right: *Rebecca Farmer, (next name not known), Phyllis Gray and John Brajkovich.*



In the lead-up to most of the matches, Phyllis was able to call upon her friends and relatives to assist by baking home-made scones, cakes, biscuits, and other tasty treats that were served to the guests during the morning and afternoon breaks. Indoor floral arrangements were also used to decorate the tables and the main pavilion in general.

See photograph of the VIP Dining Room pasted hereunder:



DENNIS LILLEE CHASTISED

I am told that on the morning of the inaugural match Dennis Lillee (special guest player) went into the VIP dining room where he and his masseur cleared everything off one of the pre-set tables, before laying on the table to receive a massage. I am told that Phyllis Gray

was not impressed and that she made her thoughts known to the champion fast bowler in typical *'Phyllis Gray style.'*

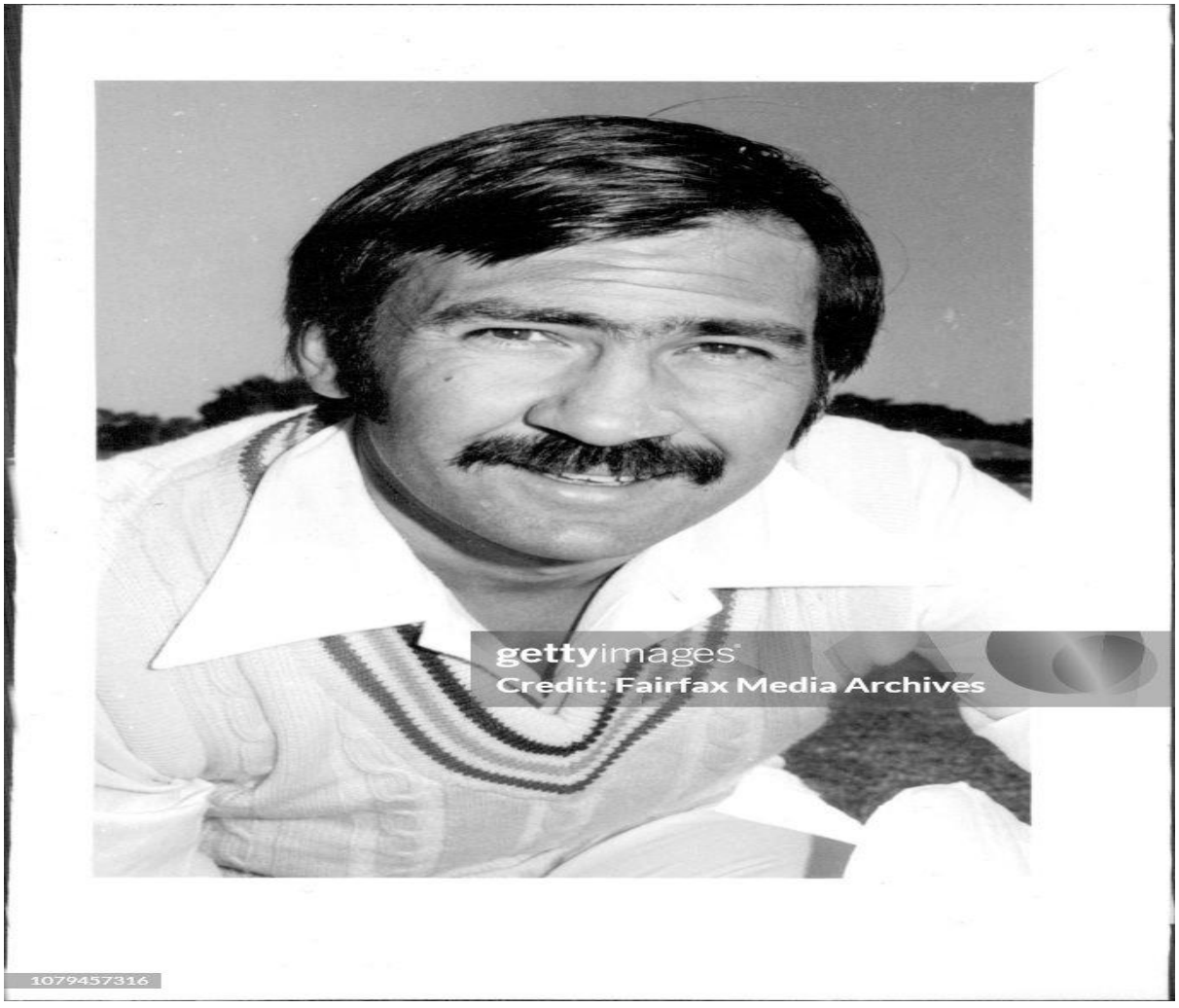
As with Vince Garreffa in the Corporate & Garden Terrace Marquees, the meals served in the VIP Dining Room by Kate Lamont were just perfect for the occasion.

Midland Guildford Life Member and former 1st Grade Opening Batsman Peter Calhoun gave his time each year to oversee the management of the bar in the Main Pavilion.

CHAIRPERSON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MR DENNIS YAGMICH

As with the others who attended the initial meeting with Mr Moody, Dennis Yagmich, Life Member of the club, and former WA & SA State Sheffield Shield Player, volunteered to act as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. *Photograph of a younger Dennis Yagmich pasted hereunder:*



From my memory Dennis was able to put in place a series of protocols that would allow him to monitor the costs of all work that needed to be done to ensure that the matches would run within budget. On match days cash and pre-sold tickets were taken periodically from each of the entrance gates, the public bars, the food & drink vans, and merchandise marquees that were positioned around the ground to his office in the main clubhouse to be recorded and secured.

Dennis was assisted by another club stalwart, Mr David Fear, and his sister Melanie. I am reliably informed that David assisted Dennis by making regular runs to the bank in Midland to ensure that all monies collected during the day was secured. Melanie was equally helpful by counting the cash as it was brought to the main office to be reconciled against ticket sales and other sales outlets. During the luncheon breaks, Melanie was kind enough to move into the VIP dining room to assist Phyllis Gray and the other ladies with hosting the players and guests.

David Holmes took responsibility for the managing the operation of the 'food sales outlets' that were positioned around the ground, and Ron Dunne made numerous trips conveying the takings from those outlets to the main office where Mr Yagmich and members of his team recorded the amounts and secured the money.

Like his fellow chairpersons, Dennis spent countless hours of his personal time (outside of match-days) preparing detailed financial reports, auditing accounts, and assisting Keith Slater and others with invoicing and other financial matters. We will never know the number of hours Dennis gave in overseeing the clubs' finances during those nineteen years.

At all future Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee Meetings, chaired by Mr Moody, Dennis would present detailed Financial Reports showing the income and expenses that were collected and incurred for each match. I am aware that he also prepared numerous financial reports which were shared with Senior Officials at the WA Cricket Association to comply with clauses in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was struck between the two parties. The MOU was drafted by close friend and supporter of the club, Lawyer Mr Paul Lyons who compiled that document pro bono as his contribution to the club.

Dennis did a wonderful job in looking after the club's financial interests for all nineteen matches.

To ensure that the profits made from each match were maximised and protected, members of the Club's General Committee passed a resolution to invest the profits from each match into a separate investment account. Mr Yagmich and Dorham Mann were appointed to manage those funds on behalf of the club. The President of the club was also appointed as a member of the Foundation.

The unofficial name of that investment account was jokingly referred to as "The Goat Bag."

RECOGNITION OF ROLE PLAYED BY MR BRIAN RAKICH AM

While on the subject of financial management related to the inaugural festival match, and for the eighteen games that followed, the club was fortunate to have had the support of former First Grade Player and Life Member of the club Mr Brian Rakich AM in his roles as Chairman, President and Treasurer of the Western Australian Cricket Association.
Photograph of Brian hereunder:



In the lead-up to the first meeting held by the Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee, former Australian Test Player Mr Barry Shepherd, then a member of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) Board, spoke to Brian, in his then role as Chairman of the WACA Board, about his idea to see an International Festival Cricket Match played at a local setting similar to the matches that were played at Arundel Castle in Sussex England when the Australian Touring Team first arrived in the country to take on England in an Ashes Series.

They discussed the ground at Lilac Hill as being the most appropriate venue for such a match and Brian, as a Midland Guildford man, readily agreed.

His discussions with MGCC Officials allowed Brian to gain an early understanding of the planning and organising that would need to be undertaken by members of the Midland Guildford Cricket Club if the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) agreed to sanction this Major International Cricketing Fixture at the ground in Caversham.

Once the ACB had given their approval to hold the match at Lilac Hill in the form proposed by Mr Shepherd, Brian was the link between the MGCC and his fellow Directors at the WACA which proved to be most useful to all concerned. While undertaking his roles as Chairman and then President of the WACA, Brian was available to liaise with Members of the Lilac Hill Festival Committee namely, Mr John Moody, Treasurer Mr Yagmich and the Chairperson's of the remaining three Sub-Committees which allowed him to inform members of the WACA Board on the progress and planning that was being undertaken in the lead-up to the inaugural match, and for the eighteen matches which followed.

Brian, as WACA Chairman, worked closely with WACA Chief Executive John Rogers and members of his senior staff and presided over all Directors Meetings that were held at the WACA when Members of the Lilac Hill Festival Committee were called upon to provide updates on the planning for each of the nineteen matches that were played at the club's ground in Caversham.

Outside of those meetings at the WACA, Brian became the personal link between the MGCC and the other WACA affiliated pennant clubs. In that role he was well placed to respond to any and all questions or issues that may have been raised by the President's and Members of those affiliated Clubs at the WACA. As the success and reputation of the Lilac Hill Festival Match grew, there were occasions when other WACA clubs became envious of the success and sought to have it taken from Midland Guildford and shared around the clubs that were

interested. This was a testing time for the WACA, however wise heads prevailed and the fixture remained at Lilac Hill with other clubs offered the opportunity to provide volunteers in return for payment which several clubs took advantage of. This arrangement proved a very successful for all parties involved.

Records held at the WACA show the remarkable contribution Brian made to the game of cricket played at all levels under the WACA banner over a period of some thirty years. The senior positions Brian held during his time at the WACA included:

- ✓ WACA Chairman ` 1989 – 2004
- ✓ WACA President 1997 – 2004
- ✓ WACA Treasurer 1979 – 1990.

It should be noted at Brian is the Patron to the Midland Guildford Cricket Club, a position he has held since the year 2016.

CHAIRMAN GROUND MATCH COMMITTEE

As stated earlier I offered to chair the sub-committee who had responsibility for preparing the ground for the inaugural match in October 1990, and all the matches which followed. I found a photograph of myself taken under the veranda of the club house with two-way radio in hand al ready for another long day on-the-job.

Like my fellow chairpersons, I gave countless hours of my time in ensuring that the ground and all amenities were ready to enable the matches to be held successfully each year. Planning for each match was not confined to work from home.

I recall arriving at my office in Police Headquarters one morning in the early 1990's to find my fellow officers had placed a sign on the door which read:

Detective Sergeant Carey
Ground Manager
Lilac Hill Festival Match



NEW GROUND COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

In the lead-up to the 7th Lilac Hill Match in 1996, my Brother-in-law Tom Pivac (photo pasted hereunder) stepped-up to take on the role of Ground Committee Chairman when I had to stand-down from the position due to my promotion with the WA Police Service, and the

additional work commitments that would follow. Having said that I remained heavily involved as his deputy for all but one of the 19 matches.

In addition to his efforts in ensuring the success of the Lilac Hill Festival Matches, Tom held the position of Midland Guildford Cricket Club President for seven years and was honoured with Life Membership. During his playing role with the club, Tom proved to be one of the club's most successful captains leading sides to a total of four lower grade premierships.



The time and effort Tom devoted to ensuring the ground was ready for the 13 remaining matches that followed was simply amazing. Without Tom's dedication, his leadership and the personal efforts of those members who gave their time to ensure the venue was ready, the matches which followed each year could not have happened. Equally I again acknowledge

the great work done by the Lead Match Chairman Mr John Moody, and members of the other three Committees in undertaking their respective roles.

Given the success of this first and second International Match, the Chair of the Marketing Committee (Mr Keith Slater) announced, at one of Executive Committee Meetings, that he could more than double the number of marquees he had sold in the first two years, and for that reason we, the Ground Committee, had to come-up with plan to make room for up to ninety 'Sponsor's Marquees' for each of the following 17 annual matches.

Having identified a new contractor who could supply and install the number of marquees we needed, we developed a plan to squeeze an additional ten ground level marquees into the arc around the bottom half of the ground, and we engaged scaffolding experts (AKA Staging) to erect eight large raised flat floor structures upon which the contractors positioned the additional forty-five 'Sponsor's Marquees.'

Somehow, we were able to achieve the task that was set for us. In effect we were able to accommodate the additional sponsors and their guests in what could be loosely described as *'double storey marquees.'*

When writing this story, I was reminded that officials from the WACA needed to be reassured that with the additional corporate marquees, there would still be sufficient seating for general ticket holders.

Keith was simply sensational in selling all the additional sponsor's marquees. We also know from records held by the club, that the Marketing Chairman had 'Corporate Sponsors' on waiting lists each year in the hope they could win a place in one of the marquees at the ground. The photographs hereunder show the ground and upper-level sponsor's marquees in place for the third match and all the matches that followed. Looking at the photographs and the layout of the ground more generally, I am still amazed with what we were all able to achieve year-in-year-out.


ETC



NEED FOR OVERNIGHT SECURITY

In the lead up to the one of earlier matches, we found it necessary to consider having a form of security service on-site given that several items had been stolen from the ground overnight, which included six new rose bushes we had planted in a garden bed behind the training nets the previous day. Tom Pivac and I settled on engaging members of the WA Police Social Club Cricket Team to undertake this task in their off-duty time. Members of the group were rostered overnight by their leader Sergeant Peter Potthoff, and the site was secured.

GROUND ANNOUNCER & MATCH SCORERS

Rather than house the Ground Announcer and the official match scorers in a modified caravan as we did for the first two festival matches, we had contractors position a specially designed container on top of one of the public grandstands where they would have a perfect view of the game.

The Marketing Committee Chairman (Keith Slater) went all-out by having well-known commentator Mr Graham (Smokey) Dawson flown from Melbourne to officiate as the official Ground Announcer at fourteen of the Festival Matches held between 1994 and when the final game was played in 2008. On each of those occasions he was positioned in the broadcast box with the official match scorers where they were able to interact with each other and share statistical data that Graham was able to covey to the crowd across the public address system throughout the day.

When speaking with Graham about his role, he recalled a young Ricki Ponting being given out LBW on 82 (from 82 balls) in a match at Lilac Hill against England in 1994. Graham said had the appeal technology used today been available back then, and if Ricki had sent the matter upstairs for review, that the decision may have been overturned. Graham said it was a century in the making that never happened.

When officiating at each of the 14 matches, Graham chipped-in to announce the bowling changes, the fall of wickets, naming the incoming batsman with comments about their past performances and the many highlights that occurred during each innings. Working with the official scorers, Graham was able to announce the many milestones that were achieved during each innings such as wickets taken, centuries and half centuries made – runs scored off x number of balls - great catches, and again many other highlights.

Graham also officiated at each of the on-ground closing ceremonies introducing the guest speakers and announcing the Players of the Match and inviting the winning captain to accept the trophy on behalf of members of his team. Graham signed off for the day by thanking everyone for attending and making the festival games so memorable.

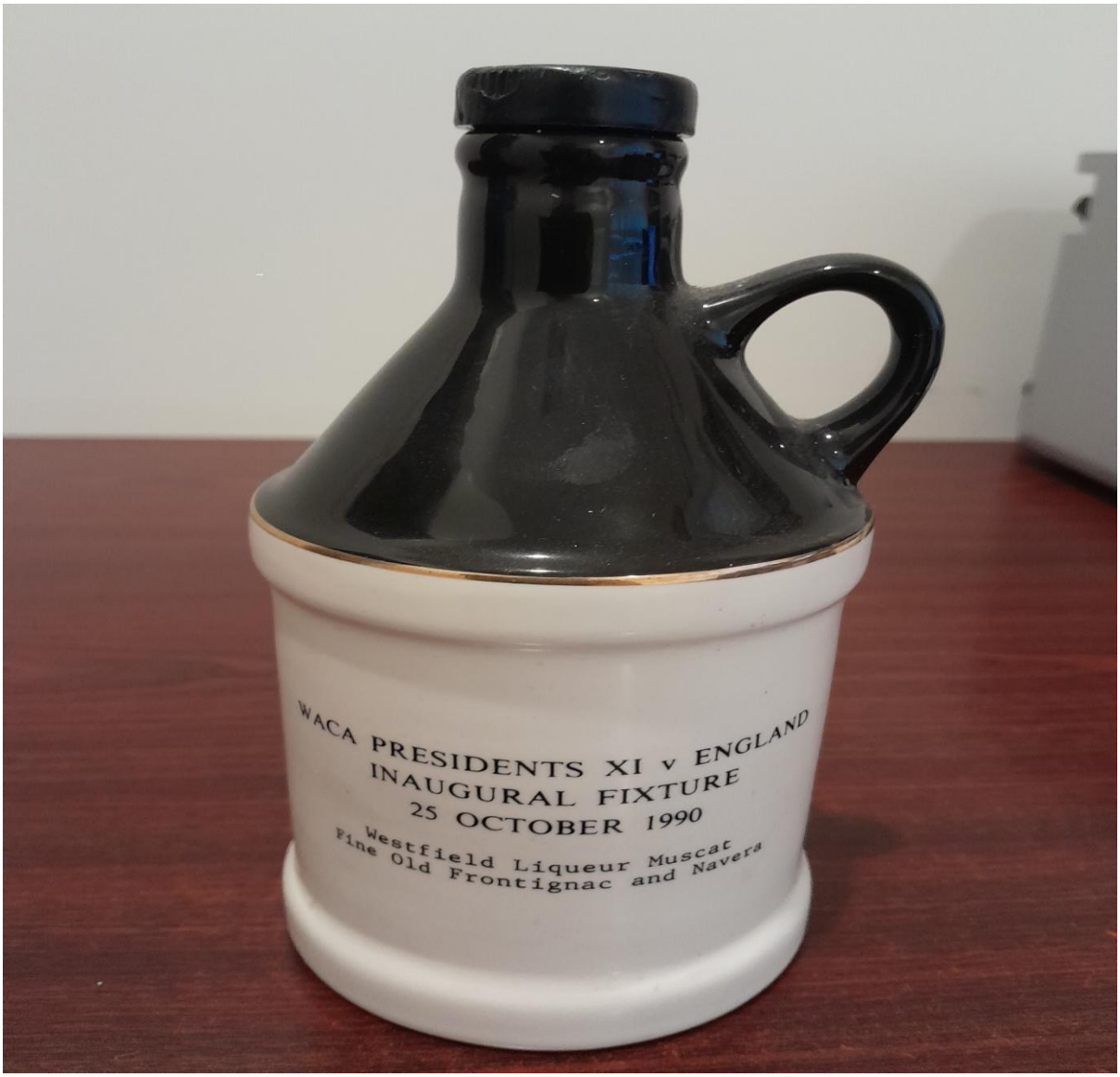
In recognition of their participation in the match, players were presented with a 'demijohn' of Westfield Fine Old Frontignac Muscat Liqueur that had been specially designed and acquired by Dorham Mann through his contacts with local wine makers. It is my understanding that Dorham identified a winery in the hills, which specialised in producing these beautifully designed demijohns.

In addition to the demijohns, Dorham Mann donated two magnums of his Sparkling Wine to the best player of each match. He also donated an additional magnum of Sparkling Wine for the player who hit the first six in each match.

It is my understanding that those gestures were repeated at the conclusion of all nineteen matches.

See photographs of the suitably inscribed 'demijohn' pasted hereunder:


LILAC HILL
FESTIVAL MATCH



Listeners to sporting events across Australia and indeed worldwide would have heard "Smokey Dawson's" dulcet tones giving ball-by-ball descriptions of Sheffield Shield Cricket Matches, Test Matches involving all participating International Test Teams, VFL Football Matches, AFL Matches and of course his voice would have been heard world-wide when officiating at both Commonwealth and Olympic Games over many years.

The Lilac Festival Cricket Matches were made more memorable by having had Graham (Smokey) Dawson officiating in the role of Ground Announcer. *Photograph of Graham pasted hereunder:*



Note: *It should be noted that Graham was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2018, after being named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, and as such he is now known as Graham John Dawson AM. A most deserving honour for one of nature's gentlemen.*

OFFICIAL MATCH SCORER

Life Member of the club Mrs Val Martin took great pride in taking responsibility for officiating as one of the scorers for all nineteen festival matches. It should be noted that Val holds a club record that surely could not be broken in that she acted as the official 1st Grade Scorer for an amazing 357 games.

Val surpassed the previous number of 1st Grade Games scored which had been held by fellow Club Stalwart and Life Member Mrs Enid McMullan.

Photographs of (1) MGCC 1st Grade Scorer and Life Member Mrs Val Martin pasted hereunder: and (2) the Ground Announcer's box positioned atop the raised seating stand.





INCREASE IN CORPORATE MARQUEES

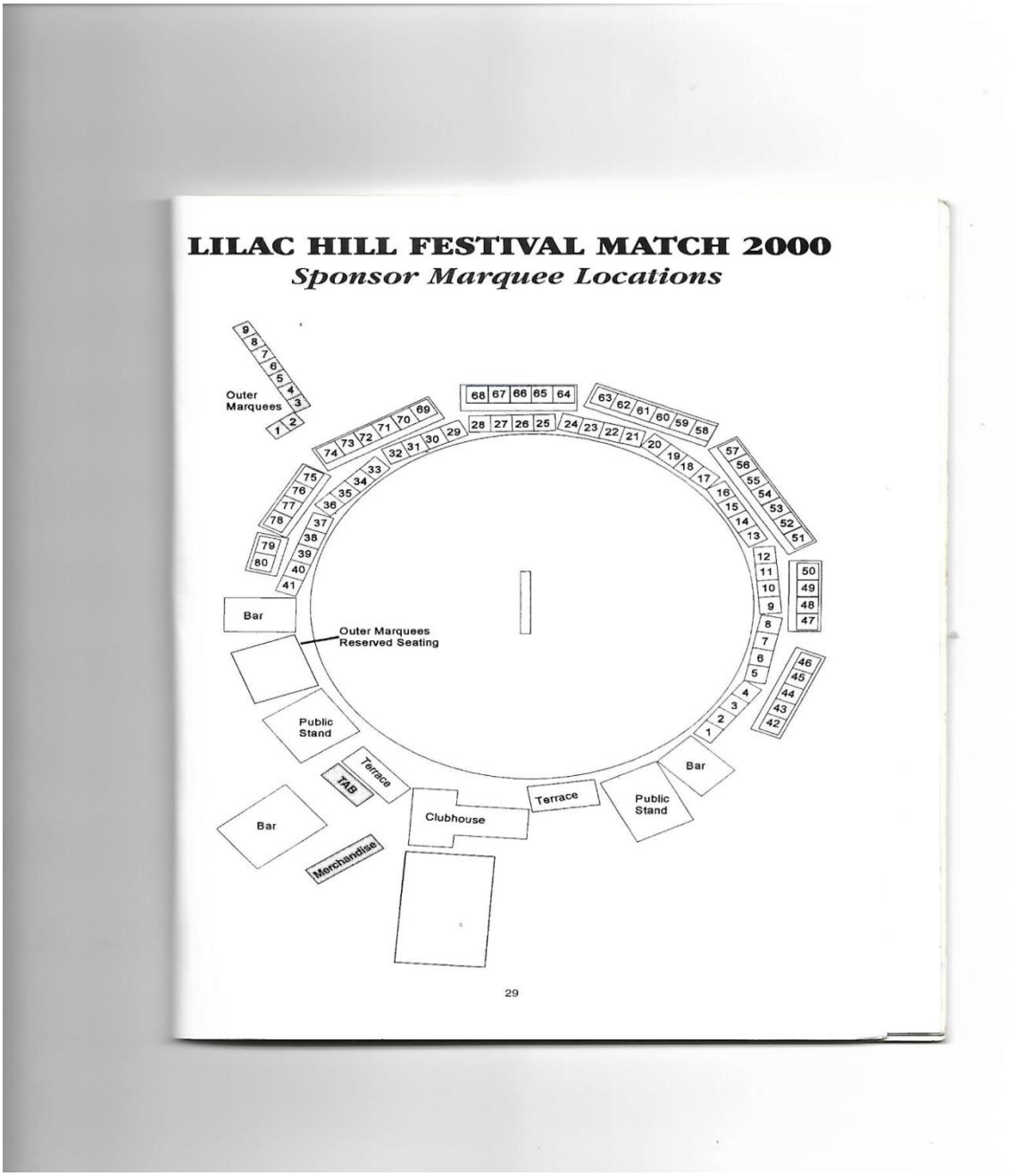
It should also be noted that the decision to increase the number of 'Sponsors Marquees' from thirty-five to ninety meant that the Caterer Mr Garreffa would now have provide meals to some 4,500 corporate guests rather than to 2,000 who had been served in the first two years. Again, he was able to achieve that task to the same high standard.

To assist readers, I have inserted further photographs of the ground showing the configuration we were able to produce for the match in 1992 and for each of the following years.

As stated earlier I designed a second ‘Ground Plan’ used in that (and all subsequent years) which showed the overall lay-out of the various marquees and other structures we were required to build for each of the remaining 17 matches.

So keen were several ‘Corporates’ to host guests at the matches, they were happy to have marquees positioned away from the main viewing circle while still being served with meals and refreshments during the day.

To allow those guests to watch the matches, we set-aside ‘reserved seating’ in one of the raised stands on the eastern side of the ground. *A copy of the ground plan showing the positioning of those additional nine corporate marquees that was used for the match in the year 2000 is pasted hereunder.*



The first of the following photographs were taken before the crowd arrived on the morning the match the club hosted in 1992. As readers will see, we were all set-to-go, and as in previous years, we were hoping that everything would go-to-plan. Again, note the double storey marquees that were discussed earlier in this document and the wicket that was prepared for this match.


nab
PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS
S&M
Midway
GIO
Schneider
Symbion



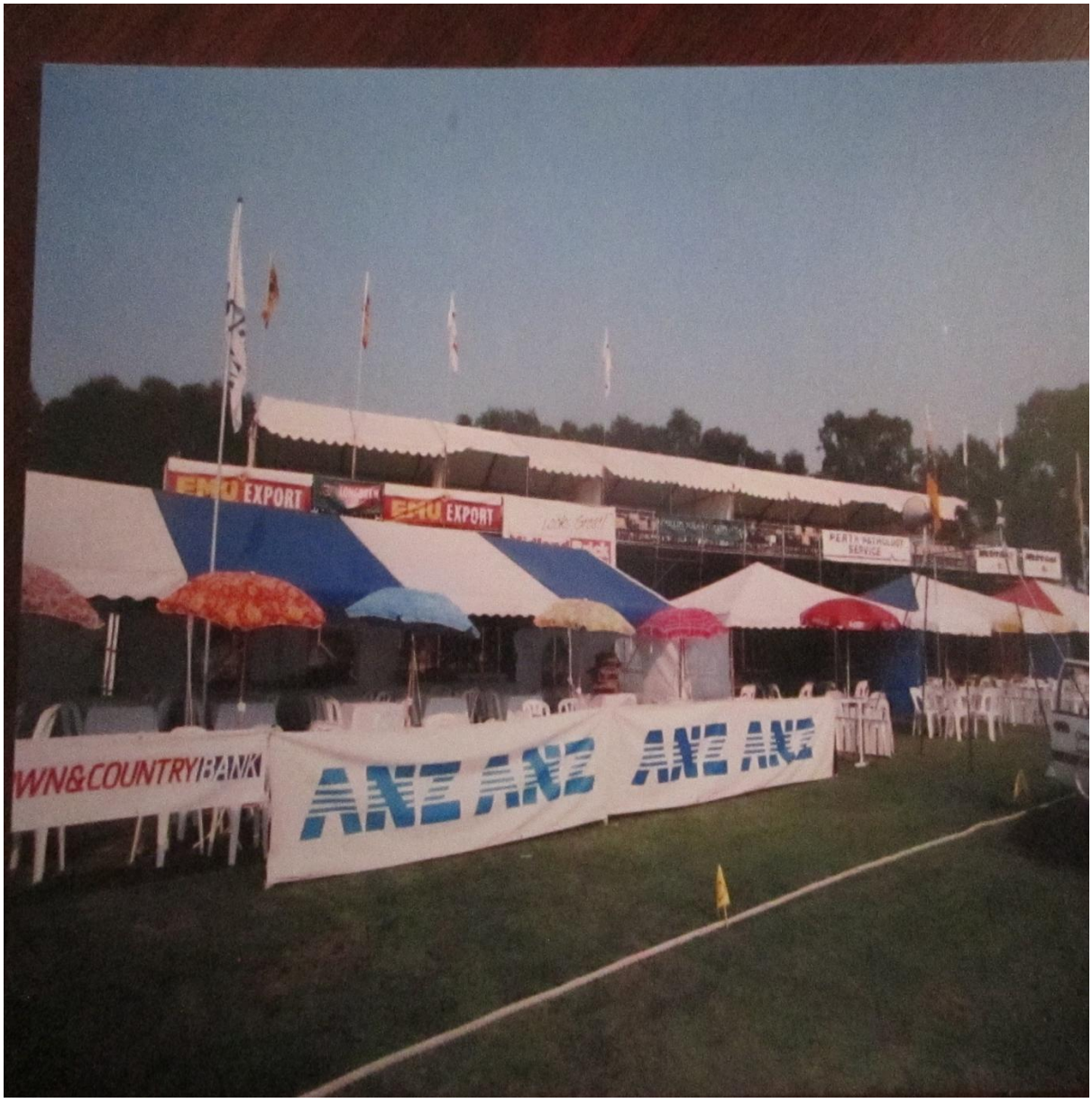

Deloitte





CORPORATE BANNERS & FLAGS

In good time for the date of the matches, those who had purchased the hospitality marquees were given the opportunity to bring their company advertising banners and flags to the club so our volunteers could hang them at the front of their marquees. Club volunteer Mike Dabbs, assisted by several club members, took responsibility for seeing that the banners and flags were all in position for the day. The flags were flown from steel poles that Tom Pivac was able to borrow from Di Candilo Steel Fabrications in Ashfield. Those two tasks took Mike and his crew many hours to complete each year. *(See photograph of corporate banners and flags pasted hereunder)*





LIVE RADIO COVERAGE

At all matches, Keith Slater arranged to have either radio stations 6PR or the ABC at the ground to broadcast direct updates, and conduct live interviews with players and guests, throughout the day. He also arranged to have the Channel Seven outside broadcast van onsite to send occasional live pictures to their viewers across the day. In 1999 the introduction of C7 Television meant that the pictures (while not live) could be shared with a vast world-wide audience.

One of the more treasured photographs taken at the Lilac Hill Festival Match played in 1993 depicted three of the greatest fast bowlers to have played the game at the highest level. I have chosen not to name them, as their faces, playing records, reputations, and performances would be known by anyone who has followed the game.



ON-GROUND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

To entertain the crowd before the games, and during the lunch breaks, we engaged musicians like the 'Numguts Bush Band,' and when the South African and New Zealand sides played, we arranged for a group to perform in their traditional colourful African & Māori Dress to sing songs and perform at different locations around the ground, and within the VIP Dining area.



MEDIA FACILITIES & SUPPORT

To cater for the needs of the Media Outlets who travelled to Australian to report on the performances of the English touring side, for those representing the local media outlets, we were able to set-up a dedicated area adjacent to the VIP seating zone, where members of the media were able to send match updates to their respective outlets on a regular basis. We

provided power outlets, telephones, seating and desks where the journalists undertook their work in private. All members of the media were provided with lunch and refreshments during the matches which I am told was greatly appreciated.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY

CORPORATE MARQUEE TELEVISION SETS

In the year 2000 the Lilac Hill Festival Match was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 5 November which was Melbourne Cup Day, and to our surprise we learnt that the Marketing Chairman (Keith Slater) had promised those who had purchased a 'Sponsors Marquee' there would be a television screen in every marquee where their guests could watch the running of the race that stops the nation.

Keith also arranged for there to be a fully functioning mobile TAB van parked on-site so people could place bets during the day. On page 10 of the Official Souvenir Programme for that year, there was a half-page notice advising everyone that the TAB was delighted to have a mobile office set-up at the ground to enable people to place bets on the famous race.

To have the ninety plus television screens (with the necessary power and technical back-up) installed for the day was one 'hell-of-a-task,' but somehow the new Ground Match Chairman, working with our regular electrical contractor, a very clever television consultant, and with members of the ground committee providing the labour, he was able to fulfil the promise that Keith had made.

ST JOHN AMBULANCE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

To abide by the necessary Health Safety and Safe Working Requirements, the club engaged St John Ambulance Volunteers to be at the ground with their mobile van for all nineteen matches to provide medical care as and when required. These officers were called upon from time-to-time during the day to treat people who came forward seeking care and support.

SUN SMART SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

We also arranged to have volunteers from the 'Sun Smart Agency' at the ground to provide free sun screen for spectators.

ENGAGEMENT OF EXTERNAL WORKFORCE GROUPS

While our Match Committee had the full support of club members, we also engaged members of other WACA Pennant Clubs, local cricket clubs, other sporting/community groups to take responsibility for undertaking specific roles and tasks, and to provide services that we could not undertake.

One of the groups was the Caversham Country Women's Association (CCWA) who kindly sold their special servings of scones/cakes and morning/afternoon tea and coffee from two marquees that we positioned for them on either side of the ground. We allowed them to walk-away with all their 'takings' and we did not charge them for the use of the marquees or power. The ladies were present at all nineteen of the Lilac Hill Matches, and they were well received by all. In keeping with their 'Association Rules,' we know they donated the profits they made to local charities.

In specifying the tasks each external group was responsible for undertaking, with exception to the CWA, I had to write what I called 'Contract Agreements' setting-out the duties that each group would have to perform. In return for their work, each club received a monetary reward which was paid on completion of their duties.

In all we engaged some 16 external clubs/bodies to assist us in preparing and hosting the nineteen matches. To give readers an example of one of the contracts that were used to outline the duties, I have attached a copy of the Tasking Contract that was struck with the Swan Valley Cricket Club whose duties included the furnishing of all marquees and other hospital areas, and other duties as directed.

Lilac Hill Festival Match

December 2006.

Tasking Contract – Swan Valley Cricket Club

The Swan Valley Cricket Club is again offered the opportunity to assist with the staging of this year's Lilac Hill Festival Cricket Match to be held on Friday 8 December 2006. In return for that assistance, the Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee will pay the Swan Valley Cricket Club a monetary donation. Details of the tasks to be performed, the number of working hours to be provided, along with the amount of the donation to be paid are outlined below:

Task Descriptions

Assistance with the furnishing of Sponsor's Marquees, both at ground and upper levels;
Assistance with the placement of furniture and other materials in various marquees and other temporary structures;
Other tasks as directed by the Ground Manager or his representative.

Number of Workers – Number of Hours

The Swan Valley Cricket Club is to provide the services of a minimum of 12 (preferably adults) workers on Saturday, 2 December 2006 to commence the above tasks. The balance of the work to be undertaken will be performed on Sunday 3 December 2006 and on subsequent days thereafter until all tasks have been completed. Your representatives are asked to report to Mr. Ron Carey at the Main Clubrooms at 8.00am on each working day, and remain at the ground under his direction until all agreed tasks have been completed.

Contact Number – Mr. Carey

Mr. Carey will be available on mobile telephone number 0408 5388 44, both on the above date and prior to that day, should your representative need to speak with him. Your representatives will be provided with lunch and refreshments each day.

Details of Donation:

In return for the above services, The Lilac Hill Festival Management Committee will donate the sum of $2,000 to the Swan Valley Cricket Club (Inc.).

To confirm your acceptance of this arrangement, please sign and date this document and return by post to Mr. Tom Pivac, 22 Victoria Road, West Swan 6056, no later than 31 October 2006.

Signed: Mr. Ron Carey Signed:

(For the Lilac Hill Festival Committee) (For the Swan Valley Cricket Club Inc.)

FURNITURE HIRE

To furnish all the hospitality marquees, the VIP area, the Garden Terrace seating area luncheon marquee, and all other areas, we engaged a company known as Port Hire. The chairs and trestles were delivered to the ground by employees from Port Hire where members of the Swan Valley Cricket Club (supervised by members of the ground committee) placed the necessary pieces of furniture in each of the hospitality marquees to match the floor plan for each marquee. They also placed the items of furniture and other items at other sites

around the ground. In all there were thousands of plastic chairs, hundreds of trestles, several hundred ice chests, and hundreds of shade umbrella. The Swan Valley Cricket Club Members did a wonderful job in carrying out their allotted duties across two days each year. As such they were suitably rewarded in accordance with the contract they agreed to sign.

PLANNING, SECURITY, AND HEALTH RELATED APPLICATIONS & PERMITS

If all that thought and planning was not enough, we learnt that to host such a significant sporting event, we would have to write and lodge a number of planning, security and health related applications to obtain approval to hold the matches. The list, and type of applications I had to write and lodge with the relevant authorities on behalf of the Main Committee, is listed hereunder simply to show the extent of the processes we had to follow:

- ✓ Application to Conduct Major Event – Lodged with the Shire of Swan;
- ✓ Risk Management Plan and Associated Matrix – Shire of Swan
- ✓ Fire Service Management Plan;
- ✓ Application to have WA Police Service Personnel Onsite
- ✓ Parking Plan – lodged with Shire of Swan;
- ✓ Application & Approval to use Diesel Powered Electricity Generators Onsite;
- ✓ Temporary Stall Holders Licence – Shire of Swan
- ✓ Food Risk Management Plan – Shire of Swan
- ✓ Swan River Trust Management Plan – Swan River Trust
- ✓ Application to have Temporary Toilets on site – Shire of Swan
- ✓ Application for an Extend the Club's Liquor Licence – Liquor Licensing Court
- ✓ Application and approval to erect temporary grandstands – Shire of Swan
- ✓ Application and approval to have marquees positioned on raised platforms – Shire of Swan

INDUSTRIAL ACTION THREATENED THE MATCH

In the lead-up to the 13th Festival Match in 2002, the Match Ground Chairman Tom Pivac and Glenn Gray recall there was a major drama arise within a week of the game being played. In short officials from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) turned up on site and called a halt to the building of high-rise marquee platforms and grandstands.

When the dispute looked like dragging-on, and to avoid the match having to be cancelled or delayed the then CEO of the WACA Mr Smith together with Mr John Moody, Tom Pivac and several other officials, met on-site with Union Boss Kevin Reynolds and his Deputy Joe McDonald. In the end both parties were able to arrive at a sensible outcome and the dispute was settled in time for the work to be completed.

MATCH SHUTDOWN – GROUND CLEARED

While if it was not enough just to prepare the ground for each match, we had to remain behind after the games finished, and for several days thereafter, to help clear the ground of all structures and moveable items. That was also an enormous task that took considerable effort and planning. Again, members of the club, and contracted external community groups stepped forward to assist with those tasks.

SHIRE OF SWAN – CITY OF SWAN

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

To gain the necessary approvals to hold these major sporting events at our local ground, we were fortunate to have had the full support of the then Shire of Swan Chief Executive Officer Mr Eric Lumsden AM, Shire President Mr Charlie Gregorini AM and all members of the local council. In short, the Shire of Swan and their various Departmental Officers were most helpful in assisting the club wherever they could to make our job easier. The Shire of Swan, later to become the City of Swan hosted guests in a corporate marquee at all nineteen matches. Their overall support was greatly appreciated.

Sadly, at the time of writing this story, I acknowledge the passing of Mr Lumsden and Mr Gregorini. The contribution they both made to the Shire of Swan, the City of Swan, and to the local community was truly remarkable.

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

In the weeks following each of the 18 matches the Chair of the Executive Committee (Mr John Moody AM) sent me a personal letter recognising the contribution I had made each year. In those same letters he said that the Midland Guildford Cricket Club, the Western Australian Cricket Association, and the Australian Cricket Board owed me a great debt of gratitude. I have attached a copy of one of the letters I received from Mr Moody which was dated 13th August 1996

It is my understanding that Mr Moody sent similar letters to Tom Pivac and all Committee Chairpersons congratulating them on the work they had done since taking on their respective roles.

LILAC · HILL · FESTIVAL · MATCH

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET BOARD CHAIRMAN'S XI v PAKISTAN
THURSDAY, 26th OCTOBER, 1995

Ref: JMM/ar

13th August, 1996

Mr R Carey
136 Queens Road
SOUTH GUILDFORD
W.A. 6055

Dear Ron

It is hard to imagine a Lilac Hill Festival Match without your leadership and direct involvement. The fixture is recognised in this State, and well beyond, as outstandingly successful and you have played a major part in achieving this status.

The Midland-Guildford Cricket Club, the WACA and the ACB owe you a great deal.

Yours sincerely

John Moody

J M MOODY A.M.
PRESIDENT

cc: Secretary - MGCC

In preparing this document showing the history of the Lilac Hill Festival Matches, I did not see the need to fully discuss each of the nineteen matches individually, because in effect, and subject to changes we needed to make, we were able to mostly replicate what had worked for us each year.

When I look back on what we all had to do to convert our local cricket ground to a venue that was capable of hosting matches involving the then World's Test Cricket Playing Nations, I firmly believe we can all be extremely proud of what we were able to achieve. It should also be noted that we could not have achieved the tasks set for us each year, without the total support of all club members, and other supporters who turned out every time they were needed.

And of course, we must remember that it was the idea put forward by the late Barry Shepherd OAM that made it all possible.

LIST OF SPECIAL INVITED GUESTS

Guests who played test cricket for Australia, and who attended matches at Lilac Hill as 'Special Guests' included former Australian Test Team Captains Bill Brown, Arthur Morris, Richie Benaud, Ian Chappell, Bill Lawry, Alan Border, Greg Chappell, Kim Hughes, Ricky Ponting & Adam Gilchrist.

Other former Australian Test Players who were invited to the games included, Alan Davidson, Rod Marsh, Merv Hughes, Ashley Mallet, Graham McKenzie, Terry Alderman, Dean Jones, Bruce Yardley, Darren Lehman & Matthew Elliot. Champion players from other test playing nations who graced the VIP area (and mingled with the large crowds) included Sir Richard Hadlee MBE, Barry Richards, Courtney Walsh & former West Indies Captain Sir Clive Lloyd CBE AO CM.

AUSTALIAN CRICKET BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Australian Cricket Board Chairpersons Mr Denis Rogers AO, Barry Crompton OAM, and the then Vice Chairman of the Board Mr Bob Merriman, represented the ACB by officiating in the Opening Ceremonies at a number of the Lilac Hill Festival Matches.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN TOURISIM AWARD

In an article published in the Souvenir Programme dated 7 November 2000, the President of the Lilac Hill Festival Match Committee, Mr John Moody AM was pleased to inform readers that on 16 June that same year, the Tourism Council of Western Australia announced that the Lilac Festival Match Event had been presented with an award in the category of; *"Significant Regional Festivals and Special Events".*

In announcing the award, the Chairman of the WA Tourism Commission, Mr Kevin Carton, offered the following comment:

"Over the past decade, I believe the match has provided a great boost for tourism in the Swan Valley and raising the profile of both the region and the sport."

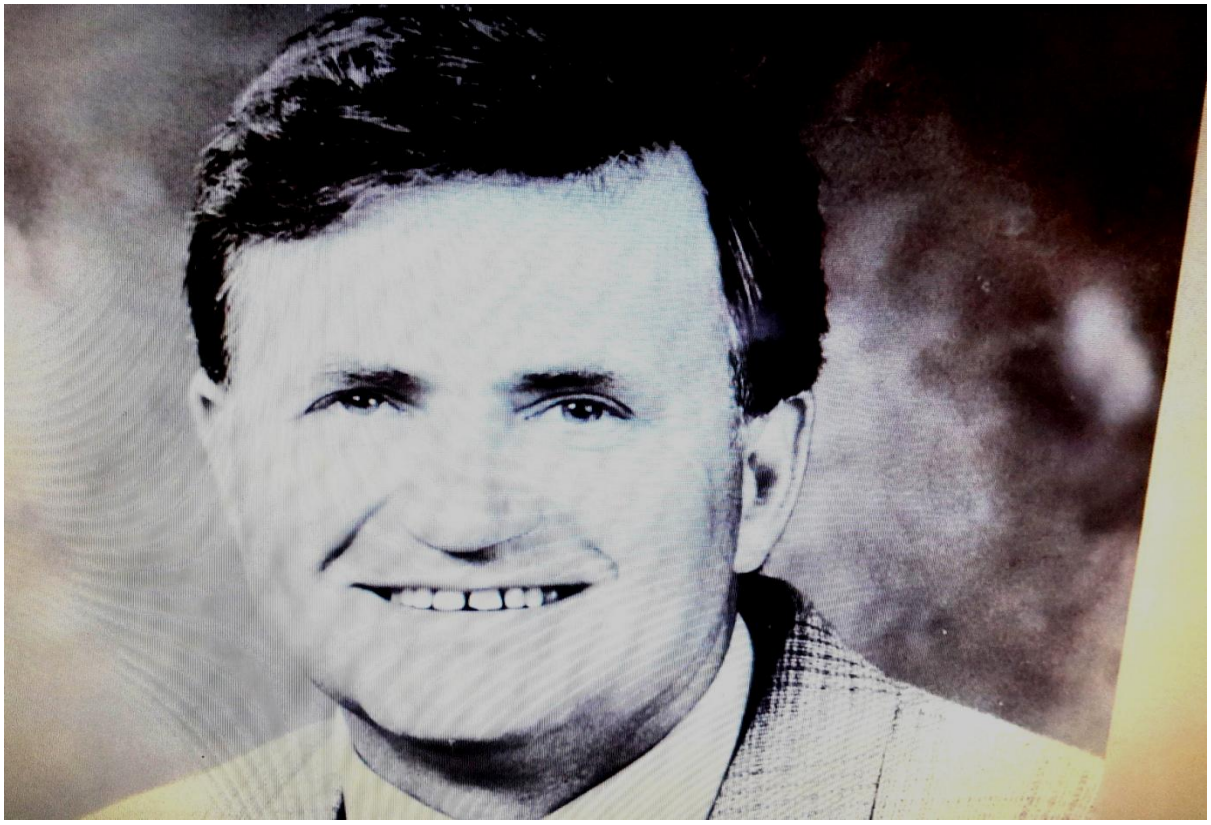
NEW INDOOR CRICKET CENTRE

'A LASTING LEGACY'

Setting aside what the club was able to achieve in successfully planning, managing, and hosting the nineteen Lilac Hill Festival Matches involving teams from all then test playing nations, there was one significant **'Lasting Legacy'** the club was able to produce using funds that were generated from the matches held at the club's ground.

Under the leadership of the then Club President, Mr Tom Pivac, with the full support of members of his committee, the idea of building an indoor cricket centre was put-forward for consideration.

Photograph of Tom taken at the time of his Presidency pasted hereunder:



Once the City of Swan had cleared the way to build a new indoor cricket centre on the club grounds, Tom and his committee were left to come-up with design plans for the new building.

To commence the design process, Tom called upon fine young club member named David Handscombe who was a fully qualified architect at the time. Over a period of time, David produced nine (9) concept plans/drawings that were considered in turn by the committee, before they settled on the final design.

I am reliably informed that David Handscombe donated countless hours of his time and expertise in designing the new indoor centre, which in turn saved the club many thousands of dollars. Not that he wanted it said, but I know that Tom Pivac, in his private capacity as the Franchisee for Kookaburra Sports in Western Australia, rewarded David with several items of new cricket equipment.

Photographs of the indoor training centre are pasted hereunder:


PARRYS
FLOORING SOLUTIONS
INSTORE AND HOME SERVICE
www.parryscarpets.com.au
WEST AUSTRALIAN
ORTHODONTICS
RANGER DRILLING
Midland Guildford Cricket Club


PARRYS
FLOORING SOLUTIONS
INSTORE AND HOME SERVICE
www.parryscarpets.com.au
RANGER DRILLING
· SAFE
· LOYAL
· PROGRESSIVE
· PRODUCTIVE
Midland Guildford Cricket Club
BATSMAN
RUNS
OVERS
TARGET
WICKETS
MGCC



Records held by the club will show that funds held in trust by the Lilac Hill Foundation were used to fund the construction of the new indoor centre. I am reliably informed that the amount allocated to build the new facility was $250,000. I am also told that the Foundation made a further payment of some $25,000 to assist with clearing the mortgage that was owed against the original clubhouse that was build when the club moved from Midland Oval to Lilac Hill in time to commence the 1981/82 season.

Tom and members of his committees worked closely with the company who were awarded the contract to construct the new building, to see the project finished and officially opened 2005.

The addition of this new training facility proved to be a masterstroke, as it was used by club members for training in the off-season and when weather had prevented the use of the outside nets. Within a short time of becoming available, the club was able to hire the facility to local clubs for training sessions in the off-season for players of all ages. All funds generated via the hiring process went back into the club's account.

External clubs using the facility included, Swan Valley, Swan Athletic, Swan View, High Wycombe, Bayswater Junior Cricket Club, and several other clubs from within the local district.

The availability of the new indoor training centre saw past club champion players step forward to host private coaching sessions for juniors who had shown promise with both bat and ball. Two of those past club champions were former Australian Test Players, Bruce Yardley and Keith Slater who were more than happy to pass on their knowledge of the game to any number of young cricketers.

The foresight shown by past President & Life Member Tom Pivac with the full support of members of his committee in proposing, planning, and designing the new indoor training centre produced a 'Lasting Legacy' that will stand proudly on the club grounds for many years to come.

ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD PURCHASED

While perhaps less significant, there was one further positive initiative undertaken during the time of Mr John Gartrell's Presidency, when he and members of his committee asked the Custodians of the Lilac Foundation to release sufficient funds to enable the purchase of a new electronic scoreboard that could be installed on the front of the new indoor training centre where it could be seen by those playing and watching play on the northern most ground. It is my understanding that the request found favour with the Custodians of the fund, and that something in the order of $30,000 was made available to enable the purchase to proceed.

Again, funds raised from the holding of the Lilac Hill Festival Matches were put to good use to the overall benefit the club. The scoreboard was designed to be wheeled out from the wall

and swung around to face players and spectators who were seated under the pavilion veranda.



ILL-FATED DEPARTURE FROM THE GROUND AT THE END OF THE INAUGURAL FESTIVAL MATCH

Within several days of the inaugural match, news came to hand that one of the “Corporate Marquee Hosts” left the northern car-park in his near new Mercedes Benz vehicle and turned right onto West Swan Road to begin his journey home. At this point we are left to assume that the person in control of the vehicle may have consumed several lemonades during the day.

Well, it seems that he became a little disorientated and by mistake he turned right off West Swan Road into Hamersley Road where he continued east for some distance before driving straight into the swan river.

Fortunately, the well-known "Corporate" was able to exit the vehicle before it sunk to the bottom of the river, and while seriously confused and somewhat embarrassed, he made his way onto the river-bank where we assume someone came to his rescue.

We are told that his vehicle was fully insured and that he was able to drive the new replacement Mercedes to the ground a year later. When all his guests were gathered in his 'Corporate Marquee' before the start of the second Festival Match in November 1991, they were called-to-order when one of the guests presented the host with a set of **"blow-up plastic water wings.'** We heard that he did not take the same route home that second year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In closing this story, the author wishes to express his thanks and appreciation to Club Member Mr Tom Mucciarone who gave an extraordinary amount of his time and expertise in attending all nineteen Lilac Festival Matches in his role as the 'Official Club Photographer'.

Tom is the former proprietor of Midland Photography; the business premises are located in Farrall Road, Midvale.

Through Tom's efforts the club has access to an array of photographs which depict almost every aspect of this wonderfully successful event. The majority of photographs depicted in this story were taken by Tom and made available to the author at no cost.

In addition to putting his hand-up to act as the Club's Official Photographer, Tom has been a wonderful servant of the Midland Guildford Cricket Club for many years, resulting with him being awarded Life Membership.

RESULTS OF LILAC HILL FESTIVAL MATCHES

PLAYED

1990 - 2008

Records held on the Australian Cricket Board's Website, has allowed me to remind readers of the results of the matches that were played between the ACB Chairman's X1 and the International Test Touring Teams. History shows that there were eighteen 50 over one-day matches played at the Lilac Hill Sportsground in Caversham between the WACA/ACB Chairman's X1 and the International Touring Test Sides. The last and 19th Festival Match played at this venue was a little different in that there were two-back-to-back T20 games between the Cricket Australia Chairman's X1 & WACA President's X1.

MATCH RESULTS

Again, the records held show that the ACB Chairman's X1 won 7 of the 18 matches they played against the Touring Test Teams.

The match played between the ACB Chairman's X1 and the Touring West Indies Team on 7 November 2000, was abandoned after the lunch break due to inclement weather in the afternoon.

CENTRURIES SCORED

The results of matches played at Lilac Hill show that there were 11 centuries made out of the 19 matches played. The Centurions were:

Brendon McCullum 119, Salman Butt 115, Kade Harvey 114, Sherwin Campbell 111, Ryan Campbell 103, Darryl Cullinan 101, Ramiz Raja 106, Graham Gooch 129, Brian Lara 106 and Tom Moody 100.

The following pages show the results of all 19 matches played the Lilac Hill Sportsground.

25 October 1990
Report

WACA President's XI	**v**	**England XI**
7/205 (47 overs)		4/206 (40 overs)
Tom Moody 100 (109)		Alec Stewart 70 (75)
Chris Mack 2/29 (7 overs)		Chris Lewis 3/37 (9 overs)

England XI won by 6 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Terry Prue and Barry Rennie
Player of the match: Tom Moody (WACA President's XI)

- *WACA President's XI won the toss and elected to bat.*
- *England XI failed to complete 50 overs in the allocated 3.5 hours and the match was reduced to 47 overs per side*

---

17 November 1991
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**Indians**
6/254 (50 overs)		7/225 (50 overs)
Geoff Marsh 106		Dilip Vengsarkar 58
Damien Martyn 3/26 (6 overs)		Javagal Srinath 3/56 (10 overs)

ACB Chairman's XI won by 29 runs
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Ross Emerson and Peter McConnell
Player of the match: Geoff Marsh (ACB Chairman's XI)

- *Indians won the toss and elected to field.*

---

2 November 1992
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**West Indians**
9/209 (50 overs)		3/210 (44.2 overs)
Geoff Marsh 72 (122)		Brian Lara 106 (132)
Dennis Lillee 2/18 (10 overs)		Carl Hooper 3/42 (10 overs)

West Indians won by 7 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: D Elstone and Ric Evans
Player of the match: Brian Lara (West Indians)

- *ACB Chairman's XI won the toss and elected to bat.*
- *The match commenced 16 minutes late (West Indians team bus delayed)*

19 October 1993
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**New Zealanders**
4/192 (43.2 overs)		189 (47.4 overs)
Damien Martyn 81 (98)		Blair Pocock 68 (122)
Dennis Lillee 2/25 (10 overs)		Dipak Patel 3/37 (10 overs)

ACB Chairman's XI won by 6 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Ross Emerson and C Reynolds
Player of the match: Damien Martyn (ACB Chairman's XI)

- *ACB Chairman's XI won the toss and elected to field.*
- *Langer retired hurt at 16/0 (struck below elbow by a delivery from Cairns).*

---

25 October 1994
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**England XI**
232 (49.4 overs)		3/236 (47.2 overs)
Ricky Ponting 82 (82)		Graham Gooch 129 (130)
Dennis Lillee 2/32 (10 overs)		Darren Gough 5/32 (9.4 overs)

England XI won by 7 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: G Bibby and Ric Evans
Player of the match: Graham Gooch (England XI)

- *ACB Chairman's XI won the toss and elected to bat.*

---

26 October 1995
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**Pakistanis**
207 (49.5 overs)		210 (50 overs)
Justin Langer 85		Ramiz Raja 106
Jo Angel 5/40 (10 overs)		Waqar Younis 2/38 (9.5 overs)

Pakistanis won by 3 runs
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Ric Evans and Barry Rennie
Player of the match: Ramiz Raja (Pakistanis)

- *ACB Chairman's XI won the toss and elected to field.*
- *Only 1 run was debited for each no-ball delivered (in contrast to the other non-international matches in Australia in 1995/96, which had 2 runs debited for each no-ball bowled)*

---

4 November 1996
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**West Indians**
7/258 (42 overs)		9/256 (50 overs)
Brendon Julian 96 (52)		Brian Lara 66 (65)
Brendon Julian 3/33 (8 overs)		Ian Bishop 4/44 (10 overs)

ACB Chairman's XI won by 3 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Terry Prue and Keith Rinaldi
Player of the match: Brendon Julian (ACB Chairman's XI)

- *West Indians won the toss and elected to bat.*

---

25 November 1997
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**South Africans**
7/251 (50 overs)		5/282 (50 overs)
Michael Hussey 62 (84)		Daryll Cullinan 101 (110)
Tom Moody 2/50 (10 overs)		Jacques Kallis 2/22 (4 overs)

South Africans won by 31 runs
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Barry Rennie and Keith Rinaldi
Player of the match: Daryll Cullinan (South Africans)

- *South Africans won the toss and elected to bat.*
- *Ryan Campbell withdrew from the selected team with an injury. Mark Atkinson was brought into the team as his replacement. He would bowl but not bat.*
  Brendon Julian broke down after 3 deliveries with a groin injury. Hansie Cronje substituted in the field for Julian while Simon Katich was located. When found Katich took his place in the team and he was allowed to bat - in the social spirit of the game.

---

29 October 1998
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**England XI**
296 (50 overs)		5/297 (50 overs)
Ryan Campbell 74		Mike Atherton 88
Matthew Nicholson 2/46 (10 overs)		Alex Tudor 3/62 (10 overs)

England XI won by 1 run
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Ross Emerson and Randolph Woolridge
Player of the match: Mike Atherton (England XI)

- *ACB Chairman's XI won the toss and elected to field.*

---

26 October 1999
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**Pakistanis**
3/171 (23.3 overs)		168 (44 overs)
Ryan Campbell 103 (58)		Moin Khan 60 (62)
Dennis Lillee 3/8 (8 overs)		Mushtaq Ahmed 2/44 (3.3 overs)

ACB Chairman's XI won by 7 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Craig Allen and Keith Rinaldi
Player of the match: Ryan Campbell (ACB Chairman's XI)

- *Pakistanis won the toss and elected to bat.*

---

7 November 2000
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**West Indians**
		2/276 (50 overs)
		Sherwin Campbell 111 (139)
Steve Nikitaras 1/42 (9 overs)		

No result
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Andrew Craig and Keith Rinaldi

- *ACB Chairman's XI won the toss and elected to field.*
- *Heavy rain during the lunch break caused play to be abandoned.*

---

5 December 2001
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**South Africans**
209 (44.1 overs)		9/257 (50 overs)
Mike Hussey 56 (77)		Neil McKenzie 76 (84)
Andy Bichel 3/28 (8 overs)		Steve Elworthy 4/27 (7.1 overs)

South Africans won by 48 runs
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Bruce Bennett and Jeff Brookes
Player of the match: Steve Elworthy (South Africans)

- *South Africans won the toss and elected to bat.*
-

2 October 2002
Report

ACB Chairman's XI	**v**	**England XI**
7/301 (50 overs)		243 (48.5 overs)
Kade Harvey 114 (88)		Rob Key 68 (71)
Brad Hogg 5/33 (8.5 overs)		Simon Jones 2/53 (8 overs)

ACB Chairman's XI won by 58 runs
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Bruce Bennett and Andrew Craig
Player of the match: Kade Harvey (ACB Chairman's XI)

- *England XI won the toss and elected to field.*

---

1 October 2003
Report

CA Chairman's XI	**v**	**Zimbabweans**
240 (49.5 overs)		3/241 (41.2 overs)
Ryan Campbell 65 (79)		Stuart Carlisle 89 (95)
Brad Williams 1/32 (9 overs)		Heath Streak 4/33 (9.5 overs)

Zimbabwe won by 7 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Jeff Brookes and Ian Lock
Player of the match: Heath Streak (Zimbabweans)

- *CA Chairman's XI won the toss and elected to bat.*

---

7 December 2004
Report

CA Chairman's XI	**v**	**Pakistanis**
213 (45.2 overs)		9/256 (50 overs)
Chris Rogers 61 (59)		Salman Butt 115 (135)
Michael Hussey 3/28 (4 overs)		Naved-ul-Hasan 3/36 (10 overs)

Pakistanis won by 43 runs
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Bruce Bennett and Ian Lock
Player of the match: Salman Butt (Pakistanis)

- *Pakistanis won the toss and elected to bat.*
-

December 2005
Report

CA Chairman's XI	v	South Africans
9/192 (46 overs)		2/193 (35.2 overs)
Marcus North 41 (63)		Herschelle Gibbs 91 (86)
Mathew Inness 2/47 (8 overs)		Garnett Kruger 4/33 (8 overs)

South Africans won by 8 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Andrew Craig and Ian Lock
Player of the match: Herschelle Gibbs (South Africans)

- *South Africans won the toss and elected to field.*
- *South Africans were only able to bowl 46 overs in the allocated time.*

---

8 December 2006
Report

CA Chairman's XI	v	England XI
3/260 (40.1 overs)		8/259 (50 overs)
Luke Ronchi 89 (49)		Alec Stewart 69 (69)
Chris Matthews 3/38 (7 overs)		Monty Panesar 2/63 (10 overs)

CA Chairman's XI won by 7 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Peter Loader and Donald Weser
Player of the match: Luke Ronchi (CA Chairman's XI)

- *England XI won the toss and elected to bat.*

---

7 December 2007
Report

CA Chairman's XI	v	New Zealanders
285 (47 overs)		9/278 (50 overs)
Luke Pomersbach 88 (65)		Brendon McCullum 119 (126)
David Hussey 2/23 (5 overs)		Jacob Oram 3/41 (7 overs)

CA Chairman's XI won by 7 runs
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Ian Lock and Mick Martell
Player of the match: Brendon McCullum (New Zealanders)

- *New Zealanders won the toss and elected to field.*

---

8 November 2008
Report

CA Chairman's XI	**v**	**WACA President's XI**
169 (20 overs)		2/178 (18.5 overs)
Luke Pomersbach 41 (21)		Liam Davis 86 (49)
Liam Davis 3/25 (3 overs)		Andrew Jarman 1/3 (1 over)

WACA President's XI won by 8 wickets
Lilac Hill, Perth
Umpires: Dean Chamberlain and Adam Semple
Player of the match: Liam Davis (WACA President's XI)

- *WACA President's XI won the toss and elected to field.*
- *This would be the last Lilac Hill festival match.*
  Format for festival match was a T20 limited overs match.